



District Council of  
Cooper Pedy

annual report

2022-23



The District Council of Coober Pedy acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



# our story

Our community is built from many different components, where we have created our own culture based on past knowledge and experience, of Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and with a mix of new nationalities who were drawn by the allure of precious opals.

Today we are a welcoming regional hub of the Far North of South Australia, with a focus on business, tourism, and opal mining, with great opportunities for future development and employment.

Our focus for the future is for the needs of individuals to be recognised, and to develop and continually improve Coober Pedy to be a happy, healthy, safe, prosperous, harmonious, and united community for all ages.

The District Council of Coober Pedy acknowledges the community of Coober Pedy and the work of the Coober Pedy Together initiative in reminding us of our rich past and setting out an inspiring future through this vision.

[www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether](http://www.facebook.com/cooberpedytogether)



## Our Vision

Coober Pedy is a vibrant, empowered, inspired community of people working together with pride and respect to honour their heritage and seek opportunities for all.

## Our Mission

A cohesive multicultural community proud of its uniqueness, supported by a thriving local and regional economy.

## Our Values

Core values describe the way we do business. Through a united approach and strong commitment, the values that will support our Mission and guide us in achieving our Vision are:

- Teamwork and partnership
- Consultative and positive management
- Customer service
- Effective fiscal management
- Innovation.

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# welcome

## administrator and ceo reports

### Welcome to the District Council of Coober Pedy 2022-23 Annual Report.

This Annual Report fulfils Council's obligation under the *Local Government Act 1999* that requires councils, on or before 30 November each year, to prepare and adopt an annual report relating to the operations of the council for the preceding financial year.

The Report provides an overview of the services and projects that Council has delivered across the town throughout the year as identified in the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

The District Council of Coober Pedy General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 are included as an Appendix.

An online version of the District Council of Coober Pedy 2022-23 Annual Report can be downloaded at:

[www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/council/council-documents/reports](http://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/council/council-documents/reports)



# administrator's report



Mr Geoff Sheridan

As the Principal Administrator I provide this report on behalf of supporting Administrators Mrs Erika Vickery OAM and Mr John Moyle.

The District Council of Coober Pedy was placed in Administration in January 2019 and Mr Tim Jackson was appointed as the Administrator after its elected members were suspended, a decision taken by the former state government in response to soaring debts and maladministration findings by the then Ombudsman and a critical report from the Auditor General.

Mr Colin Davies replaced Mr Jackson in February 2023 when he was appointed as the Interim Administrator while the appointment of long-term Administrators was being finalised.

The Minister of Local Government Mr Geoff Brock (MP) stated that "Resolving the ongoing issues in Coober Pedy presents a significant challenge, due to the Council's continuing poor financial position, and its responsibility to properly manage the provision of water and power in the town. As interim Administrator Colin was required to report to the Minister at the end of his term advising on the governance issues that remain to be resolved, including any views or recommendations that he may have formed during his tenure about the finances of the Council and a way forward."

This report was also required to consider the recommendations of the reports written by Mr John Comrie titled District Council of Coober Pedy's Current and Projected Financial Position & Performance – Assessment and Implications as updated 17 March 2023. Mr Comrie's original Report was dated March 2022 and then at the request of the Minister was updated in March 2023.

The Interim Administrator's Report to the Minister for Local Government, Mr Geoff Brock MP was critical of the past financial management including poor cashflow management along with a lack of action on governance, policy, and delegation documentation.

These two reports are titled:  
Interim Administrator's Report, March 2023  
John Comrie Report March 2023

Copies of these reports are available on Council's Website at  
<https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/council/council-documents/reports>

The John Comrie report included the following summary conclusions:

"From the data in the report, it would appear that DCCP's financial performance and position has not improved at the rates that the Council was forecasting when the March 2022 report was prepared. In fact, it has deteriorated further. Whether this is due to lack of commitment to progressing financial improvement reforms or further unforeseen adverse events is not clear although I am not aware of any of the latter.

No attempt has been made to assess to what extent the recommendations contained in the March 2022 report have been addressed. To the extent that they may have been embraced actions appear to not yet have realised financial performance improvement. I have no reason to believe that any of the recommendations made in the March 2022 report were not, and are still not, appropriate."

In an open letter to the Community the Minister of Local Government advised that on 9 March 2023, Her Excellency the Hon Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, appointed the new administration for the District Council of Coober Pedy (the Council) where he stated:

“Mr Geoff Sheridan has been appointed as the ‘principal administrator’. He will be largely based in Coober Pedy and will take the lead role in the new administration. Mr Sheridan is a long-standing and respected senior leader in local government, particularly in regional South Australian councils, most recently as the chief executive officer of the District Council of Elliston. Mr Sheridan will be supported in his role by two ‘supporting administrators’, who will work part-time to participate in deliberations of the Council and setting the strategic directions for the future of the Council.

The supporting administrators are Ms Erika Vickery and Mr John Moyle. Ms Vickery is a former mayor of Naracoorte Lucindale Council and is widely respected for the enormous contribution she has made over many years to her local community, her region, and local government across South Australia. Mr Moyle has held senior leadership roles across councils, most recently as chief executive officer of the City of Tea Tree Gully. In that role, Mr Moyle has had exceptional experience in managing council-run essential services and working with the South Australian Government to determine the long-term future and provision of these services.

I am confident that the skills and experience represented by this small group of people will lead to the high-quality leadership and decision-making that is necessary to address the Council’s ongoing challenges. The State Government is committed to working with the new administrators toward a stable and sustainable future for the Council and will therefore contribute \$150,000 per year towards the cost of the administration. This will cover the costs of the two supporting administrators and make a significant contribution to the costs of the principal administrator.

The new administrators will begin their role on Wednesday 29 March 2023. I am looking forward to visiting Coober Pedy with them on that day to introduce them to the community and continue our discussions on the steps that need to be taken to make the Council financially sustainable so that it may be safely returned to an elected member body.”

In the Administrators appointment letter, the Minister outlined several responsibilities required by including the provision of reports to the Minister on the administration of the affairs of the Council at intervals of not more than three months the first by the 29 June 2023. These reports are to include information on the progress of the recommendations contained in the Interim Administrators report as well as the recommendations in the updated John Comrie Report. In addition, the Minister request that the reports also provide regular updates on:

- The development of a Long-Term Financial Plan that includes a realistic pathway to placing and keeping the Council in financially sustainable position.
- The development and adoption of the 2023-24 annual business plan and budget with regard for rate increase or expenditure reductions that may be needed to ensure that the Council resolves its current liquidity issues.



# 2022-23 Financial Reporting

Regular monthly reports have been provided to the Council, prepared on an exception basis highlighting positive and negative items, overall trends, and a forecasted position for 30 June 2023 were provided throughout the year by Council's consulting finance team.

The third budget review was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 12 May 2023 and adopted by the Council on 24 May 2023.

All monthly financial reports and budget reviews have also been distributed to the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) and Office of Local Government (OLG).

During the year, Council's finance team took a significant step forward in separating the income and expenditure of its key business operations such as:

-  Water Supply and Delivery
-  Community Wastewater Management Scheme
-  Electricity Supply
-  Mini Gems Child Care services
-  Private Works
-  Municipal Services

This has meant that now, Council can make much more informed decisions on its operations and ensure that each of the service areas are being funded from the revenue that they earn.

Unfortunately, the Government and our creditors have put a restriction on us spending money on unfunded (other than through grant income) capital items which means Council has not been able to replace plant and equipment as they become unreliable or fail completely. To address this in the short term, we have moved to leasing or dry hiring of plant when necessary. We accept this is not ideal in the long-term but in the short term there is very limited cost-effective alternatives, given our remoteness from external suppliers and contractors.

## 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget

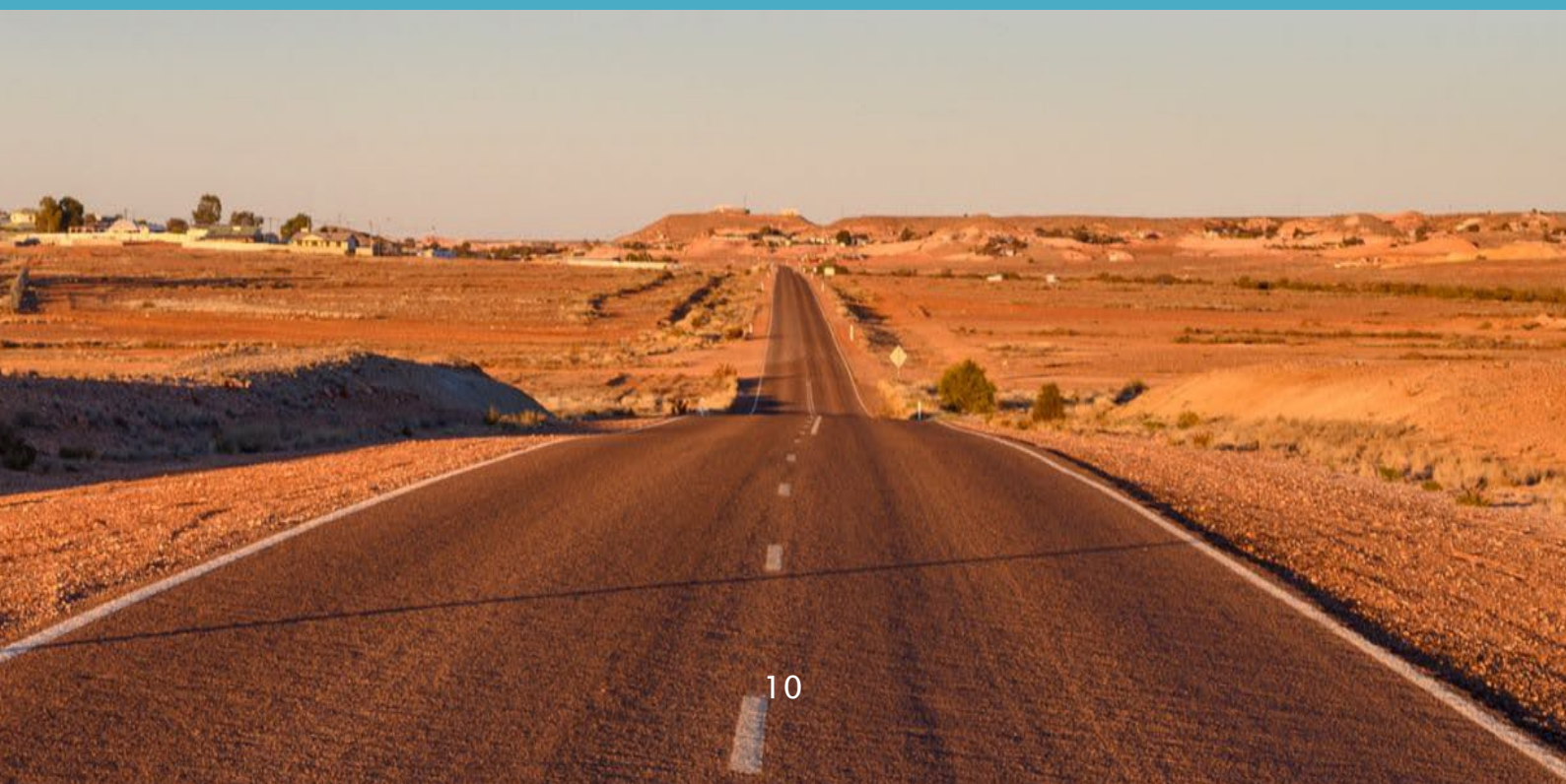
The 2023-24 Annual Business Plan (ABP) including the Budget for 2023-24 was recommended for adoption for public consultation by the Audit and Committee at their meeting on 15 June 2023. It was presented to the Council at its meeting on 21 June 2023 and endorsed with some minor changes.

After an original draft of the 2023-24 budget was first prepared based on Council's 2022-23 activity levels, a thorough review of all Council services was undertaken. Over \$0.9M in cost reductions were found predominately from staffing reductions in management and other positions. This includes not replacing the two General Manager Positions in 2022-23, \$300,000 and in the 2023-24 Budget, other staff reductions of \$469,000 and other expense reduction \$208,000.

We have also incorporated a 20 per cent increase, in real terms, in general rate revenue as we strive to return Council to a surplus position in the near future and a 30 per cent increase, in real terms, in water charges to ensure the revenue raised from Council's water operations covers the anticipated expenditure for providing this essential service to the community.

Our financial future remains challenging even with these measures in place. By the end of the 2023-24 financial year, we anticipate having a reduced underlying deficit of (\$0.21M) and a cash balance of \$0.9M (as per the revised financial report provided to Council on 28th June 2023). The revised timing of receipts for the Financial Assistance (FA) Grants in Financial Year (FY) 23 impacts both the forecast position and the FY24 budget assumptions included in the draft ABP, those changes have yet to be incorporated in our final budget. At the time of adopting the Annual Business Plan for 2023-24, Council has identified a working capital gap of \$0.9M in approximately May 2024, and unless there is a commitment of another funding source to make available that level of working capital, it can only be funded by withholding creditor payments. The only creditor that Council has of that magnitude is EDL. For Council to continue to hold the amount owing to EDL at \$3.1M (which is the closing balance projected for 2022-23), it will need another funding source to meet this estimated working capital gap.

In addition, to the amount owing to EDL, Council still owes \$7.7M to the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) as at 30 June 2023.



# 2023-24 to 2023-33

## Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

The LTFP was recommended by Council’s Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) to be adopted for public consultation on 16 June 2023. The plan aims to move the Council towards operating at a financial sustainable level, which cannot be achieved until Council addresses its current debt levels and instead uses these funds available to invest in service delivery for the community. However, without external assistance—such as additional grant funds from other levels of government — or the sale of the water business providing a one-off cash injection, it may take Council over twenty years to reduce its debt enough to be able to invest in enhance services compared to the 2023-24 level. The key strategies proposed to achieve financial sustainability include water pricing at full cost recovery, rate revenue increases, ongoing cost reductions, and a structured cash allocation plan.

The key financial strategies applied in the LTFP are as follows.

- Water pricing at full cost recovery – this requires a 30% increase in water revenue in 2023-24
- Rate Revenue increases – as detailed within the table below (all increases being in real terms)

	2024 Budget \$	2025 \$	2026 \$	2027 \$	2028 \$	2029 \$	2030 \$	2031 \$	2032 \$	2033 \$
General Rate Revenue Increase	20.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Cumulative	20.00%	26.00%	32.30%	38.92%	41.69%	44.53%	47.42%	50.37%	53.37%	56.44%

- Reduction in costs achieved in 2023-24 to continue for the life of the plan
- Surplus cash will be applied on the following basis
  - Energy Generation Pty Ltd (EDL) arrears, such that no asset replacement will occur until the arrears is extinguished. It is anticipated that the EDL arrears will be fully extinguished by 2026-27.
  - Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA) debt, with a minimum amount of \$0.1M being applied to the principal.
  - Replacement of assets. Based on Council’s current accounting data on assets it will have caught up on the required spending in 2033-34.
- The use of grant funding to renew assets will improve Council’s position by renewing assets earlier and therefore enabling it to apply additional funds to reduce debt.

While these measures and plans are drastic and likely to have an impact on the community, we believe they are the best options available to us. However, there are risks involved, particularly the potential failure to deliver services and renew assets, as we will not allocate any funds to asset renewal until 2026-27.

## Internal Controls

A review of internal controls was conducted from November 2022 to January 2023. The review identified a number of gaps in meeting the obligations under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Better Practice Model-Internal Financial Controls for councils.

The review highlighted that out of the 297 controls reviewed, 157 were either not in place or not operating at a complete level to reduce the inherent risk of the financial process as summarised in the following table:

Ratings	2023 Review
Effective	140
Majority Effective	65
Partially Effective	60
Requires Significant Improvement	31
Ineffective	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>

Council's Independent external auditors, Bentleys, confirmed 11 additional controls that were not operating effectively and stated in their interim management letter to Council that their end-of-year financial statement audit opinion would be qualified as a result.

This information was presented to the ARC in March 2023 (Council review only) and June 2023. The ARC meeting held in June 2023 recommended that Council "...allocates sufficient resources to address the shortfall of appropriate Internal Controls as addressed in Bentley's Interim Audit Management report dated June 2023".

Unfortunately, Council does not have the resources to undertake this required work in regard to the Internal Controls with the finance team already overstretched dealing with the daily financial management issues that arise while we are in this precarious position. There are insufficient funds in our budget to buy in more resources in the short term so these will have to be addressed as our scarce resources become available over time.

# administrator's summary

While Council continues to be financially challenged by the inherited heavy debt burden of a significant \$7.7m loan to the LGFA along with a number of high creditor accounts such as EDL, systems are being put in place to ensure that revenue is increasing where reasonably possible and the cost of delivering the services continue to be reduced.

The current Council has also inherited a significant number of non-compliances in a number of Governance and Finance areas especially, but these are being addressed where resources can be found internally or funded externally.

Quarterly reports on the status of the Council are supplied to the Minister for Local Government which are supported by regular meetings between the Administrators, our Chief Executive Officer and the Minister and his support staff. These reports, along with the Minister's responses are included in Council's public agendas for all of our community to read. We continue to seek support from the State Government to assist with our cashflow challenges and our long-term debt management.

We are fully aware that it is a long journey out of the current financial situation and the other challenges that places on the Council around compliance, plant and equipment replacement and delivering services to the community, but we are committed to the challenge ahead.

In conclusion, I thank the support of our dedicated staff for their efforts particularly over the last three months in what can only be described as a challenging year.



Mr David Kelly

# CEO's report

The 2022-23 financial year was another challenging one for Council and I thank and commend all our staff for their contributions and resilience.

As mentioned in the 2021-22 Annual Report, my focus was in the areas of commercial, culture and finance in alignment with my Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

## Commercial

Council has had a desire to divest its water business for quite some time and needed to better prepare itself for a Request for Tender (RFT) process based on a failed attempt in the past.

On 31 March 2023, Council released the RFT documents to the open market. The original closing date was 31 May 2023 which was extended until 30 June 2023 at the request of a prospective tenderer.

Council established an Evaluation Panel comprising Council's Water Operations Manager, an Independent Specialist Engineer and myself. The Evaluation Panel was expecting to review all responses over a three-month period and reach a decision once subsequent rounds of questions were answered. The outcome of this process was that in the early part of 2023-24 Council resolved not to accept any tender on the basis that none of the

submission provided sufficient information to allow Council to make an informed decision about proceeding.

New pricing was implemented for both Mini Gems (Council's operated Childcare Centre) and the Airport, making Mini Gems a breakeven operation and the Airport returning 5% on assets. This corrected a situation where both areas were losing money. The increase in pricing for Mini Gems was subsidised by Federal Government.

On 3 May 2023, Council conducted an auction for the sale of eleven properties for unpaid rates with Council recovering \$141,000 in rates, \$8,000 of electricity and \$9,000 of water rates. Initially there were twenty-two properties listed for auction however, through owners paying outstanding rates or entering a payment plan, a further \$48,971 was recovered. It is expected that Council will conduct a further auction during 2023-24 for another eleven properties that are falling well short on the Council rate debts to Council. Council set new fees and charges, as well as new water rates.

## Culture

Council conducted an Employee Engagement Survey (EES) in December 2022 as a pulse check on how employees were finding working for Council. A highlight of the year was that answers to 30 of the 37 questions improved compared to the survey run a year earlier. Some were above global benchmarking best-practice, and the overall result was that employees are in general finding Council a better place to work, are committed to working for Council and rate the leadership highly.

Another highlight was Water Operations Manager, Mr Jamie Hay, winning the Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) Operator of the Year state award. Apart from the outstanding recognition for Jamie, the prize was a field study trip to New Zealand, where Mr Hay joined other award category winners and visited multiple water operators in New Zealand. In addition to the extra knowledge gained, Mr Hay developed an extensive network of industry peers to collaborate with in the future.

To improve engagement and communications with staff and across functions, the following meetings were implemented:

- Monthly All-In where all staff get together and hear an update from each manager and me, as well as sometimes having a special guest. Our first special guest was Michael Coughlin, CEO, AMYAC
- Fortnightly Extended Leadership Team meetings where all managers, team leaders and supervisors get together to share their priorities and issues, brainstorm ideas for solutions and build rapport and understanding.

Personally, I completed my “ride-ons” where I spent quality time with all functions of the organisation and almost all staff in order to better appreciate the operation and what staff do and need. For me, this was a highlight and the most enjoyable part of my job.

I also focused on being accessible to, and part of, the local community. This included being a committee member of the Drive-in Committee, ex-officio member of the Coober Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Committee, and member of the Historical Society. It also included participation in many local events, including volunteer work.

## Financial

Council’s financial situation continues to be a challenging one. Council reported an operating deficit of (\$1.570M) against an original budget of (\$1.816M) and an underlying result (adjusted for once-off items) of (\$1.710M) against an original budget deficit of (\$0.586M). The prior year results for 2021-22 were an operating deficit of (\$1.847M) and an underlying operating deficit of (\$0.707M). Income in 2022-23 increased by 20% year-on-year and expenses increased by 17%.

During 2022-23, several vehicles were taken out of service due to repairs and faults requiring rectification. This necessitated Council having to contract vehicles on a rental basis to fill some of the gap. We have no cash resources available to invest in replacement, particularly of our plant, and have continued to face interruptions to our service delivery due to breakdowns of our ageing fleet.

Council still has \$7.8M in loans requiring repayment and its largest creditor was owed over \$2.7M as at 30 June 2023. Until Council can repay these debts it will not have capital available to repair and replace our failing assets.

Council has been working hard to update its policies and procedures to reinstate its internal controls to the expected levels. One of the consequences of these improvements has been the identification of reporting deficiencies by Council in prior years. Investigations relating to prior period rectifications have resulted in a delay in some areas of further improvements and incurred additional costs where payments were not made in the past.

In closing, Council continues to struggle with financial burdens of the past which cause extra challenges for our staff and impacts on the community.

I again thank all staff for their contributions, especially given the extraordinary challenges, and the community for its support, patience and understanding.

**David Kelly**  
Chief Executive Officer

# our community

**Coober Pedy is the world's largest opal bearing region and produces more than 80% of Australia's opal.**

Far from being a declining industry, the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy reported a 22% increase in mining activity across the fields in 2021. It is a valuable industry for South Australia.

Many government departments, social support agencies and health services have offices here. The community also provides services to neighbouring cattle and sheep stations.

Coober Pedy has an increasingly vital role as a regional hub for Far North South Australia (a recognised district/region by Regional Development Australia) as well as contributing to the state's visitor economy as a must-visit tourist destination.

**In line with our commitment to building a strong sense of community pride and participation in community-building activities, we hold citizenship ceremonies at various times throughout the year.**

**We welcomed 12 new citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony in 2022-23.**

## Location

On the Stuart Highway, 846km from Adelaide and 538km from Port Augusta to the south, and 685km from Alice Springs to the north. It is, geographically, at the centre of South Australia's remote Outback.

## Population

The population is estimated at 1,820 (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - 2020). It reached a high of 3,184 in 1996 and has stabilised over the past decade, with a mild growth of 0.93% per annum. However, the itinerant and 'part-time' nature of a large number of people who call Coober Pedy home, at least for part of the year, means that at times the local population can be as high as around 3,000 according to District Council of Coober Pedy estimates.

In 2016 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 23% (ABS) of Coober Pedy's population. This compares with around 2% for South Australia as a whole and 4.1% for Australia. Aboriginal people from many language groups and nations call Coober Pedy home.

## Economy

Coober Pedy's Gross Regional Product (GRP) was estimated in 2019 at \$91.82 million, which was 3 per cent of the wider Far North Region's GRP and approximately 0.08 per cent of South Australia's Gross State Product (GSP). GRP per worker in Coober Pedy at that time was \$135,000 and GRP per capita \$52,000. Economic activity in Coober Pedy is concentrated in mining and tourism. Together, these industries drive the local economy.

## Ethnicity

With more than 45 nationalities, Coober Pedy has become one of Australia's most ethnically diverse communities. New groups, including Sri Lankan, Indian and Filipino communities, are making a significant positive impact.



## Employment

Opal mining, tourism, and hospitality are the main interrelated industries in Coober Pedy. The health and social services sector provide over 20% of ongoing jobs in Coober Pedy, with an average unemployment rate over the past five years of 11.3% (Department of Employment Skills and Education).

## Education

Coober Pedy Area School provides education for preschool to year 12 students. It is a diverse school community, with students from many cultural backgrounds, and a high enrolment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

## Sustainability

Coober Pedy could be the most sustainable town in Australia. It has long-been a leader in renewable energies and was the second town in Australia (after Esperance, WA) to install its own wind turbine.

In 2017, the Coober Pedy Hybrid Renewable Power Station (consisting of two wind turbines, a solar farm, battery storage and a diesel generator) was installed. Since then, the town has sustained approximately 73% renewable power generation (SA 51%, Australia 19%).

The town is unique in South Australia because its Council manages the provision of water and electricity services to its community. It is a particularly large energy consumer given that it operates a high-pressure reverse osmosis desalination plant that requires a significant amount of energy.

## Water

Coober Pedy lies in the heart of South Australia's arid lands and is supplied by bore water delivered via 200mm pipeline from 60m deep artesian bores located 23 km north-east of the town. Water is treated locally at the town's reverse osmosis desalination plant. Up to 50% of potentially available wastewater is captured along the main street and some other areas and, where possible, is recycled and used to water the town's oval and community orchard and garden.

## Health

Coober Pedy has a hospital and two health services, the Coober Pedy Community Health Centre (Eastern Eyre and Far North Health Service) and Umoona Tjutagku Health Service, which are provided as health services to members of the community, who are able to access services as needed. Given the number of ageing residents, there is an urgent need for an all-inclusive aged care facility.





# your council

The District Council of Coober Pedy was suspended by the Government in 2019. The following mandatory provisions outlined in the *Local Government Act 1999* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013* are not applicable for this 2022-23 Annual Report as there were no Council Members following the appointment of the Administrator to perform the role of the elected body.

## Council and Committee Structure

On 24 January 2019, the Governor of South Australia appointed an Administrator to the District Council of Coober Pedy. The appointment was made on the recommendation of the Minister for Local Government as the Council was declared a defaulting Council. The position is a statutory appointment.

The Administrator acts as the elected Council body and consequently perform the functions and responsibilities of the Council.

## Council Meetings

These meetings cover the municipal and town operations. In 2022-23 Council held Ordinary Council meetings on 21 occasions, with 7 Special Council meetings held where a decision was required prior to the next Ordinary Council meeting.

## Commercial Activities Meetings

These meetings cover the non-municipal and non-town operations and commenced on 14 June 2022. The Committee held 8 Ordinary Commercial Activities Committee meeting with two Special Commercial Activities meetings. These meetings are no longer held. This Committee was revoked in early 2023.

## Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee operates under section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999 and oversees Council's risk management and internal control frameworks. The Committee reports to the Council on a regular basis to confirm whether these frameworks are in place and operating effectively. The Committee also reviews the annual financial statements, Annual Business Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Committee has undertaken the discharge of its duties in accordance with the following:

- Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011
- Audit & Risk Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Audit & Risk Committee's works program.

This Committee held 6 Ordinary Audit and Risk Committee meetings with two Special Audit and Risk Committee meetings.

## CEO Oversight Committee

This Committee held two CEO Oversight Committee meetings, with an additional one Special Committee meeting. This Committee was revoked in June 2023 and replaced by a new Committee called "CEO Performance review Committee".

## Information Sessions

In 2022-23, one Information Sessions was held or required in accordance with Section 90A of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

## Confidential Orders

During 2022-23, there were 5 occasions in Council meetings where Council was satisfied it was necessary to exclude the public and consider items in confidence.

Meeting	Date	Subject	Section 90 (3) provision
Council Meeting	18/08/2022	Appointment of Chief Executive Officer	90(3)(a)
Council Meeting	31/01/2023	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates	90(3)(a)
Council Meeting	11/04/2023	Prior Period FBT Returns – Quote for Support	90(3)(d)
Council Meeting	24/05/2023	Request to Write-off Electricity Bad Debts	90(3)(a) & (d)
Council Meeting	28/06/2023	Expression of Interests for Independent Member of Council’s Audit & Risk Committee	90(3)(a)

During 2022-23, 2 Confidential Orders made under Section 90(2) above expired or were revoked during the financial year.

As of 30 June 2023, the total number of known items remaining in confidence under Section 91(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999* stands at 42, excluding any orders made prior to 15 November 2010.

There were no confidential matters in the Commercial Activities Committee meetings.

## Internal Review of a Council Decision (Section 270 Review)

In 2022/23 there was 1 application made to have a decision reviewed under Section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999. The application was assessed as being outside of the scope of Council’s ‘Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and Procedure’ and did not proceed beyond the application stage.

we are committed to open, responsive and accountable government.

## Freedom of Information Applications

No applications were received under Freedom of Information legislation.

## Public Interest Disclosures

No reports were received under the Public Disclosures Act 2018.

## Integrity and Behaviour

There were no contravention of Chapter 5 (Members of council) Part 4 (Member integrity and behaviour) Division 2 (Member behaviour) during the relevant financial year.

There were no contravention of section 75G (Health and safety duties) during the relevant financial year.

Council incurred \$0 costs in relation to dealing with complaints alleging contravention or failure to comply with Section 75G and any referrals of such complains to the Behavioural Standards Panel during the relevant financial year.

## Gifts and Benefits

No gifts recorded for either the Administrators or the Staff during the 2022-23 period.

## Training and Development for Administrators

Administrators receive regular updates on matters of importance from the Local Government Association and various legislative changes from Council's lawyers. Given the vast and recent experience in Local Government of the three current Administrators it was agreed that it was not needed to spend funds on formal training in 2022-23.

## Allowance to Administrators

The three Administrators do not receive an allowance but are remunerated via an annual Sitting Fee, paid fortnightly in arrears and based on the following annual fees:

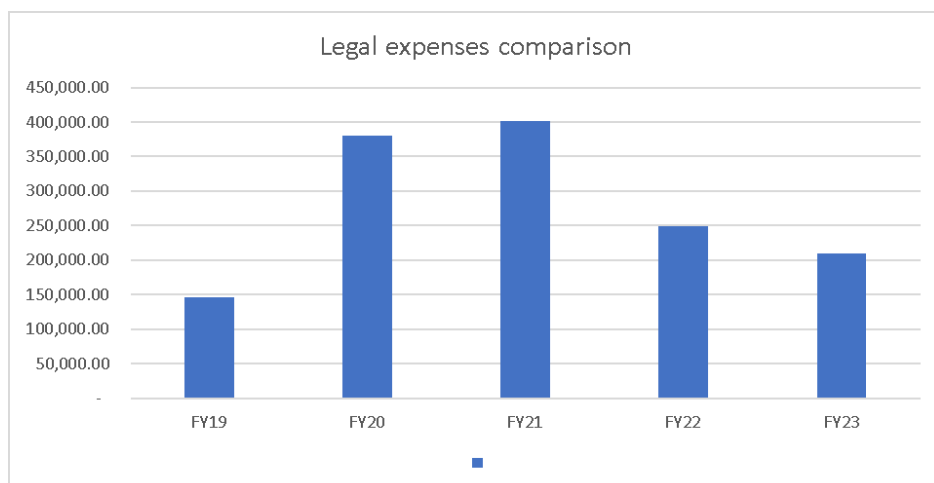
Principal Administrator - \$220,000 per annum

Administrators (2) - \$40,000 per annum



## Legal Costs

The expenditure for legal fees was \$210,167.53 (excl. GST), which was included in the 2022-23 financial statements.



## Credit Card Expenditure

Date	Ref	Amount	GST	Less GST Total
13/06/2023	JUNE 2023	5,764.69	472.14	5,292.55
14/05/2023	MAY 2023	6,910.71	632.93	6,277.78
13/04/2023	APR 2023	6,599.20	507.64	6,091.56
14/03/2023	MAR 2023	5,529.49	473.88	5,055.61
13/02/2023	FEB 2023	7,995.76	644.56	7,351.20
15/01/2023	JAN 2023	4,949.25	321.02	4,628.23
13/12/2022	DEC 2022	6,088.31	987.78	5,100.53
13/11/2022	NOV 2023	5,720.72	457.89	5,262.83
13/10/2022	OCT 2022	5,654.52	526.83	5,127.69
13/09/2022	SEP 2022	4,362.04	461.29	3,900.75
14/08/2022	AUG 2022	4,179.29	639.16	3,540.13
13/07/2022	JULY 2022	6,507.64	704.60	5,803.04
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70,261.62</b>	<b>6,829.72</b>	<b>63,431.90</b>

# Policies

The following Policies have been adopted by Council and are published on Council's website:

Policies & Processes
Asset Management Policy
Audit Committee Policy
Caretaker Policy & Guidelines
Code of Conduct for Council Members
Complaints Handling Procedure under Council Members' of Conduct
Council Induction Policy
Council Member Access to Information Policy
Council Member Training and Development Policy
Credit Card Policy
Customer Electrical Maintenance Policy & Procedure
Debt Recovery Policy 2023
Disposal of Land and Assets Policy
Distributed Generation Policy & Requirements
Elected Member Allowance & Support Policy
Election Signs
Employee Code of Conduct - Dealing with Complaints Procedure
Employees Code of Conduct
Financial Hardship Policy - Rates 2021
Flag Flying Policy
Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
Gifts & Benefits Policy
Grievance & Disciplinary Policy
Grievance & Disciplinary Policy
Hardship Policy for Residential Customer
Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy & Procedure
Making of Orders Policy
Meetings Code of Practice

Policies & Processes
Policy for Mayor/Chairperson Seeking Legal Advice
Privacy Policy
Procurement Policy
Prudential Management Policy
Public Consultation Policy
Public Interest Disclosure Policy
Rate Policy
Rate Rebate Policy
Rebate of Council Rates Policy
Records Management Policy
Request for Services Policy
Risk Management Policy & Framework
Signage Policy
Social Media Policy
Statutory Code of Practice Access to Council meetings
Street Naming Policy
Temporary Road Closures for Events on Council Roads
Use of Social Media by Councillors Guidelines
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy
Water Leakage Allowance Policy
Water Pricing Policy
Workplace Relations Policy
Writing Off Bad Debts Policy

# Registers

The following Registers are required to be kept by Council and are published on Council's website:

Registers
Council Member/Administrator Gifts & Benefits Register
Employee Gifts and Benefits Register
Register of Salaries
Register of Released Confidential Documents for Council & Committee Meetings
Register of Retained Items of Confidential Orders
Fees and Charges
Community Land Register
Delegations Register

## Registers kept as required by The Local Government (Elections) Act 1999

There are no registers required to be kept under this Act. However, campaign donation returns are prepared by candidates and saved in this Register. This does not apply as Council is under administration.

## Delegations

Council last reviewed its Delegations in June 2023, previous update was done on 10 November 2020. Following appointment of a new Administration team that commenced on 29 March 2023, Council reviewed its delegations as Councils do after a periodic election.

It is standard practice for a council to delegate some/many of their powers to the Chief Executive Officer. Once specific delegations have been allocated to the Chief Executive Officer, they can then delegate each power or duty to a specific officer by position title. These are referred to as sub-delegations. The delegations register can be found on the Council website.

## Representation Review

Council	Electors	Councillors	Ratio
Coober Pedy	899	9	99
Flinders Ranges	1176	9	130
Peterborough	1235	9	137
Franklin Harbour	921	6	153
Karoonda East Murray	724	7	103
Kimba	728	7	104

This data was derived from information provided by the Electoral Commission of SA. Commission of SA for the House of Assembly (30/06/2023) and council supplementary roll (28/02/2023).

Next Representation Review will occur between April 2028 and April 2029 as notified via SA Government Gazette No 86, 23/11/2023.





WELCOME TO

**COOBER PEDY**

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# financial snapshot

The operating deficit for 2022-23 is (\$1.570M) against an original budgeted deficit of (\$1.816M). The underlying result was a deficit of (\$1.710M) against a budget deficit of (\$0.586M). This result was driven by increases in user fees and grant income. The table below provides a summary of the movements between the underlying budget result and the actual underlying result:

Item	Amount
Budget Underlying Result	585,600
Less: Operating Result movement	246,241
Less: Kanuku-Breakaways Result	392,414
Less: Net Financial Assistance Grants	334,468
Less: Insurance Claim Fund	12,688
Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) Subsidy - Prior Year	371,629
Right-Of-Use (ROU) Lease Entries	259,097
Act Underlying Result	1,709,655

Revenue was higher than 2021-22 by \$3.050M largely due to Council grants increasing by \$2.049M, user charges increasing by \$0.688M, rates increasing by \$0.293M and investment income increasing by \$0.020M.

Actual operating expenses have increased from 2021-22 by \$2.862M. The increase in operating costs is largely due to increased materials and services expenses of \$1.723, increased staffing costs \$0.751M, increased depreciation of \$0.308 and increased finance costs relating to electricity right of use assets of \$0.080M.

# National Competition Policy

Competitive neutrality is one of the key principles of the National Competition Policy. The principle is based on the concept of a level playing field for organisations competing in business and related to situations where there is, or is the potential for, competition between the private and public sectors.

Councils are required to identify what its business activities are and disclose those in Category One (annual gross operating income greater than \$2 million per year) and Category Two (annual gross operating income less than \$2 million per year).

There are three Category One business activities operated by District Council of Coober Pedy:

- Municipal – \$3,906,000 annual turnover
- Electricity Distribution and Retail – \$10,535,000 annual turnover
- Water Production, Reticulation and Retail – \$1,855,000 annual turnover

There are three Category Two business activities operated by District Council of Coober Pedy:

- Coober Pedy Airport – \$299,000 annual turnover
- Mini Gems Childcare Centre – \$543,000 annual turnover
- Private Works – \$269,000 annual turnover

Councils are required to identify the review and reform of by-laws that restrict competition, including proposals for new by-laws.

In 2022-23 DCCP did not initiate a review of its existing by-laws, however none of its existing or proposed by-laws have the potential to restrict competition.

No complaints were made to the State Competition Commissioner regarding the District Council of Coober Pedy.

## Auditors Payment

The expenditure for external audit fees was \$37,688 (excl. GST), which was included in the 2022-23 financial statements. There was no other remuneration payable.

## Financial Assistance Grants

The South Australian Grants Commission is responsible for the distribution of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to councils in accordance with State and Federal legislative requirements.

Council relies significantly on Federal Assistance Grants, with approximately 7.4% of total operating revenue (adjusted) coming from this source. Allocation of the grants is based on a complex formula involving analysing Council's income and expenses with State averages and other factors such as its demographic profile, the movement in its population relative to the movement in both South Australia's and Australia's population, and its community's ability to pay relative to other council communities.

During 2022-23 financial year Council received \$256,993 (27% allocation) of the 2022-23 grant and \$931,670 (95% allocation) of the 2023-24 grant.

# General Revenue and Financing

Council adopted the 2022-23 Budget and declared the rates for the new financial year at a meeting held on 26 July 2023.

Financial management support and consultancy are still provided by IgiQ.

## Rates

Rates are administered by each council in line with the Local Government Act 1999, which allows some flexibility for each council to make decisions to suit its local community. The District Council of Coober Pedy Rating Policy sets out Council's policy for setting and collecting rates from its community.

## Rate Relief

Council applies rate remissions, concessions, postponements and rebates in accordance with the Act and its Rebate of Council Rates Policy.

## Remission of Rates – Hardship

Section 182 of the Local Government Act 1999 permits a council to postpone or give remission on rates due to hardship and other defined reasons.

## Senior Rates Postponement

This allows ratepayers who hold a state government issued Seniors Card to postpone payment of Council rates amounts above \$500 per year until their property is sold or eligibility ceases. This can assist eligible ratepayers who have a high level of equity in their home but are on limited incomes. Ongoing compounded monthly interest is applied to postponed amounts. Further information about the Seniors Rate Postponement Scheme is available on Council's website.

## Discretionary Rebates

Council may consider an application and approve a rebate under its discretion in accordance with Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1999. Further information is detailed in the Rate Rebate Policy.

## Hardship Policy

Council is committed to assisting customers who are experiencing financial hardship to manage their bills on an ongoing basis and to make payments in a mutually acceptable manner, helping ratepayers clear their outstanding and ongoing rates debt.

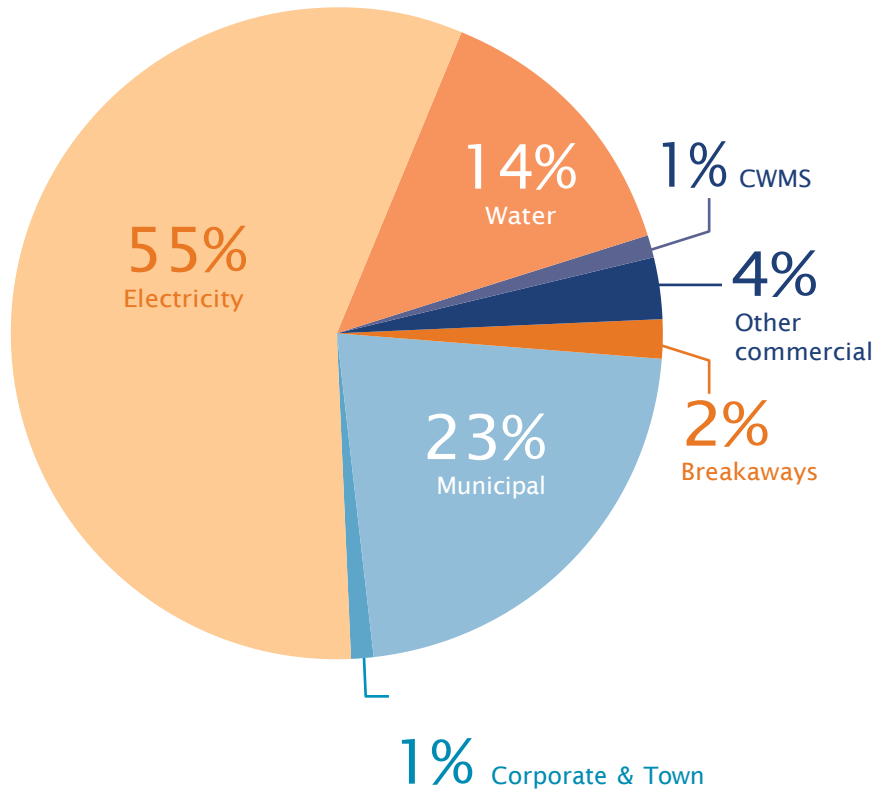
Ratepayers are encouraged to contact Council as soon as they become aware that they may be unable to meet their quarterly rates payment and if experiencing financial hardship.

Council's Hardship Policy provides options for ratepayers seeking rates relief due to hardship or extenuating circumstances. Council may refer the ratepayer to an accredited financial counsellor or negotiate a flexible affordable payment.

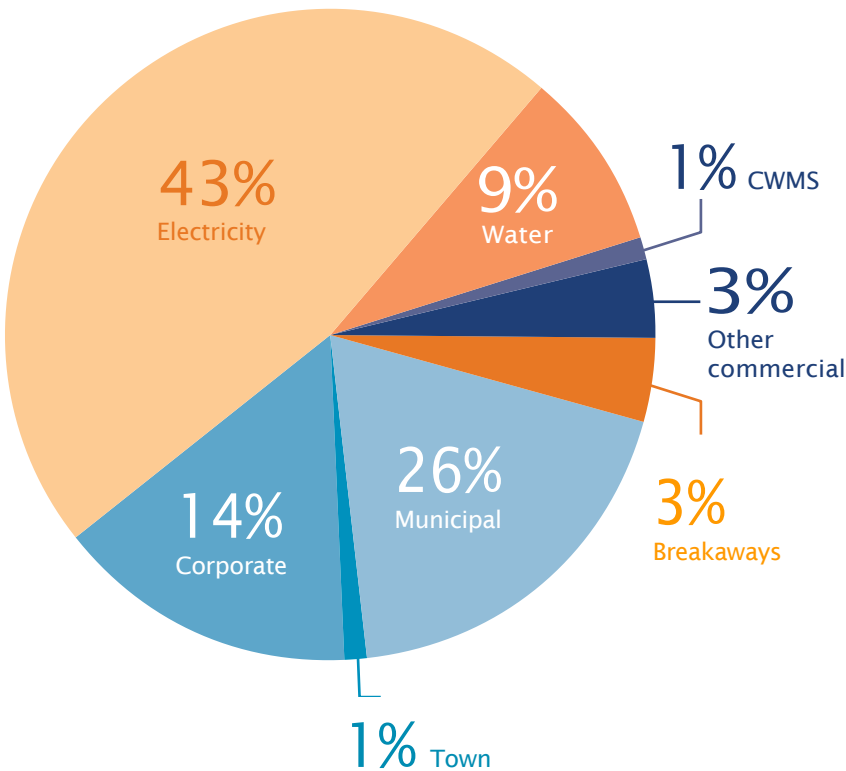
## Where Council's money comes from

Council received income of \$17.838M in 2022-23. The electricity business was the greatest revenue generator, with more than 55% of the total, followed by Municipal at 23%, driven by rates and charges, and then Water at 14%. The remaining businesses generated 8% of Council's revenue.

Sources of revenue included grants, subsidies and contributions totalling \$8.343M, user charges \$6.550M and rates revenue (commercial and residential) of \$2.61M. The balance of \$0.335M was generated through reimbursements, statutory charges, investment income and other minor income.



## Where Council's money was spent



Council spent \$19.408M on delivering services in 2022-23. Operating expenses included employee and labour hire costs of \$5.502M, materials, contracts, and general expenses of \$6.307M, depreciation of \$5.505M and finance and other costs of \$2.094M.

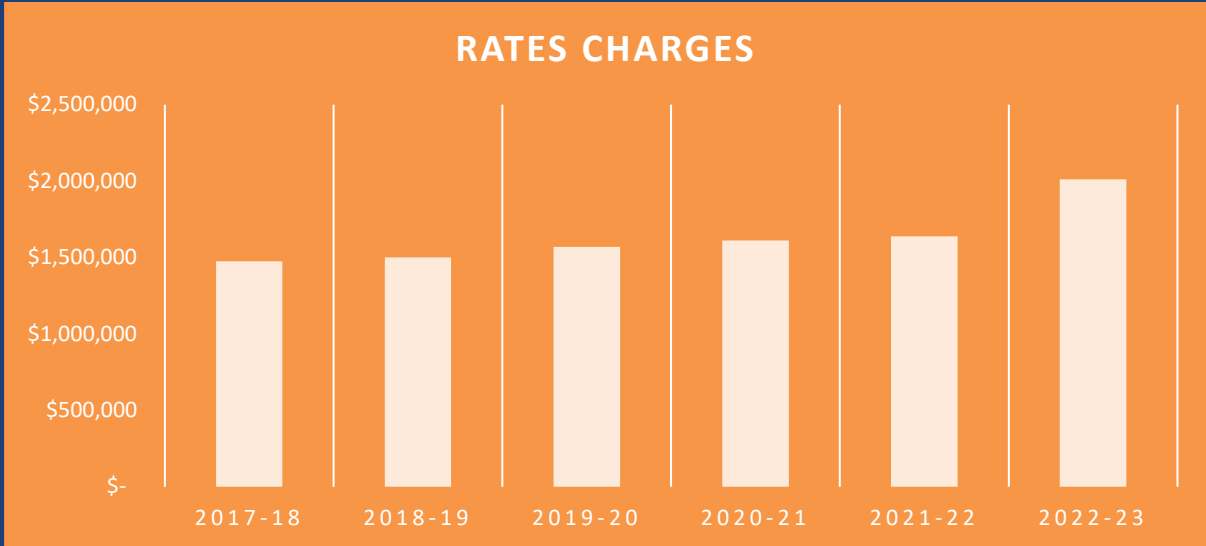
The electricity business incurred the greatest proportion of Council's expenditure at 43%, followed by Municipal at 26%, Corporate at 14% and Water at 9%. The remaining business areas incurred 8% of Council's expenditure.



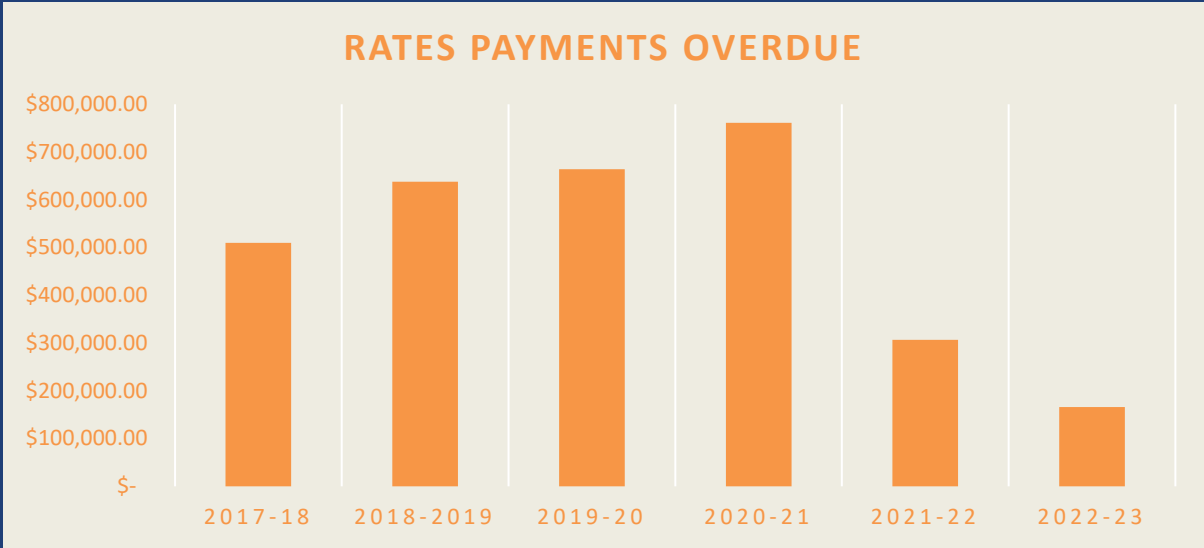
# Rates

## Rates charges

The rates charges from 2018 to 2023 are as follows:



The following is a comparison of rates overdue accounts for each financial year at 30 June each year from 2018 to 2023:



# our performance

## Financial Sustainability

The table below summarises the results for the 2022-23 financial year. Most of the ratios are outside the target range due mostly to Council's limited working capital.

Financial Indicator	Explanation	2022-23 Actual	Target	Comments
Operating Surplus ratio	This ratio measures Council's operating result as a percentage of its total income.	(8.8%)	1% - 10%	Historically Council has operated at a deficit and continued to do so in 2022-23. One reason for this includes not setting fees or rates at an adequate level to cover costs of services, including depreciation.
Underlying Operating Surplus ratio	This ratio expresses the normalised operating result as a percentage of Council's total income.	(10.4%)	1% - 10%	The underlying result adds back any one-off or abnormal items (e.g., accounting entries for the lease costs associated with the Electricity Assets)
Net Financial Liabilities	The net financial liabilities ratio measures Council's indebtedness. This is a measure of net financial liabilities as a percentage of total operating income.	572%	Between 90% - 110%	Council has been advised by its current lender it will not provide any additional loans until significant financial improvements are achieved.
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	This ratio analyses whether a council is replacing its assets when required to maintain its level of service.	51%	Between 90% - 110%	Anything less than 100% means a council's overall asset stock is declining. The Council's assets continue to decline as it does not have the financial resources to fund their replacement.

## Service Performance

Service	Expense 2021-22	Expense 2022-23	% 2022-23
Local Roads and Paths	\$1,089,583	\$1,206,563	25.8%
Recreation	\$746,969	\$771,463	16.5%
Governance	\$698,302	\$854,856	18.3%
Waste Management	\$519,897	\$644,294	13.8%
Children and Youth	\$248,167	\$155,750	3.3%
Tourism	\$199,136	\$175,665	3.8%
Community Development	\$196,720	\$291,613	6.2%
Regulatory Services	\$145,215	\$100,679	2.2%
Community Amenities	\$134,698	\$135,097	2.9%
Environmental Management	\$132,682	\$230,601	4.9%
Economic Development	\$42,460	\$69,730	1.5%
Cultural	\$31,086	\$20,660	0.4%
Drainage Maintenance	\$19,658	\$16,748	0.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,204,574</b>	<b>\$4,673,726</b>	<b>100.0%</b>





organisational

# structure

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Executive Officer  
Kanku Breakaways

Mini Gems Manager

Team Leader

Educator x 3

Corporate Services Manager

Revenue Officers x 3  
Payroll and Creditors  
Customer Service Officer  
VIC Officers  
Assistant Accountant

Works Manager

General Inspector  
C&M Workers x 2  
Plant Operator  
Parks & Gardens  
Supervisor  
Parks & Gardens  
Dog and Cat Management  
Control Officer  
Administration Officer

Electricity Distribution Manager

Electricity Supervisor

Linesman x 2

Electrician

Water Distribution Manager

Water Supervisor

Team Leader

Water Operator x3  
Water Trainee



# organisational culture

## Everyone

Everyone understands and is committed to the DCCP mission (serving the community), priorities, and strategic plan.

Physical and psychological safety is never compromised in the interests of achieving work goals.

Proper PPE is available and used.

Shared understanding of the team's purpose and day-to-day objectives and plan.

Take responsibility for finishing the allocated work.

People are comfortable asking for help when they need it.

Willingly help each other out when they see someone needs a hand

Understand what others' (individuals and teams) roles are, and how they impact on each other.

Treat each other with respect and listen to each other to understand what they are saying.

Use initiative to think of better ways of working and overcoming challenges.

Comfortable to raise ideas, suggestions, and concerns with someone who can do something about it.

Work areas are well presented and organised.

## People in leadership positions

Empower people to achieve work goals efficiently and safely.

Hold people accountable for doing what they are expected to do.

Recognise good performance and exceptional effort.

Talk with people to stay in touch with team and individual wellbeing.

Seek input and opinions from teams when making decisions which will affect the team.

Give people the training they need and opportunity to grow.

Integrity is demonstrated in decision making (i.e., ethical, transparent, in line with the stated mission and priorities, good governance, what is promised is done).

Explain the reasons for decisions made.

Keep people up to date on plans and what's happening (i.e., in the loop).

## How should people be feeling?

DCCP is a great place to work.

Connected to the larger organisation and all in this together.

Proud of the work they do because it's meaningful and can be done to the required standard.

Valued for what they do and bring to the organisation.

Proud of the organisation's contribution to the community and that ratepayers' money is spent wisely.

Appreciated by the community.

# Human Resources

This is the employees Council had from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:  
(including terminated employees during this period)

Department	Full Time	Part Time	Casual	Total
Administration / Finance	7	1		8
Breakaways		3	2	5
Child and Youth		1	1	2
Childcare	3		7	10
Electricity	9			9
Governance	4	5		11
Human Resources			1	1
IT			1	1
Meter reading			3	3
Swimming Pool			6	6
Tourism			3	3
Water	7		1	8
Work, Health and Safety	1			1
Works	10		5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>81</b>

<b>Female</b>	<b>34</b>
Male	47

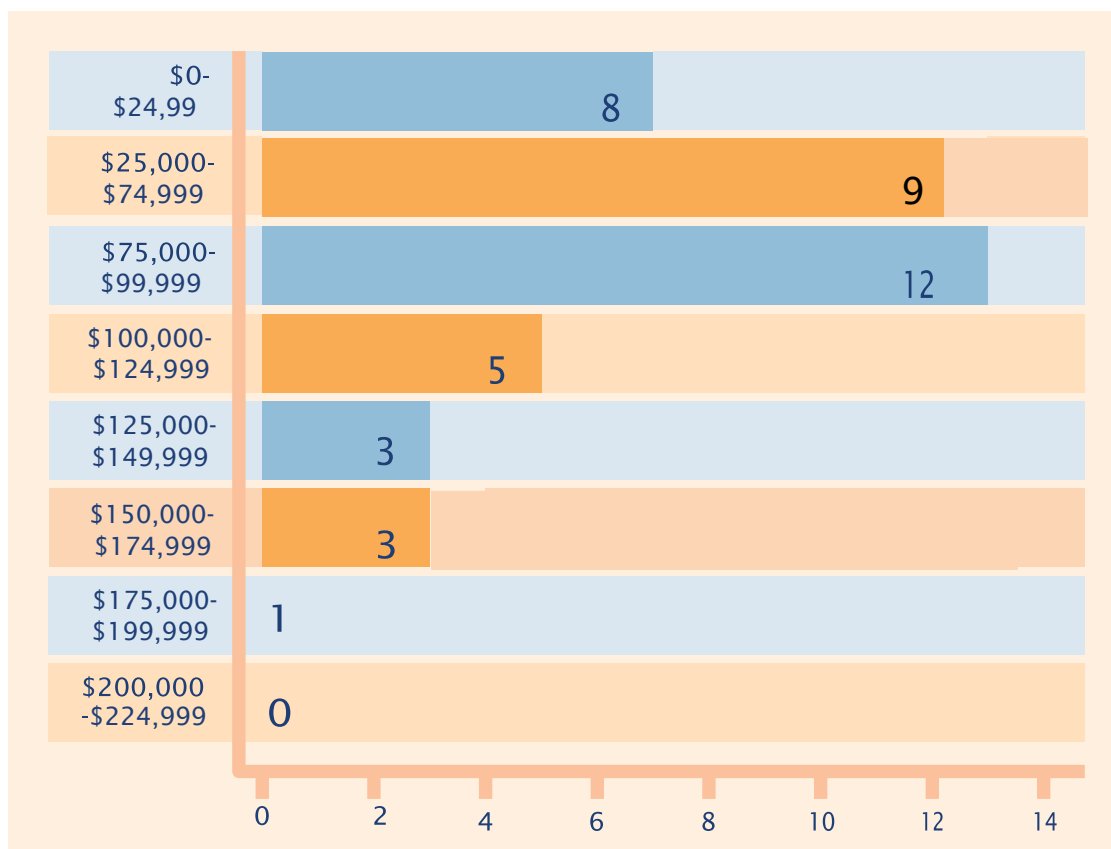
The workforce ranges from 30 to 54, subject to seasonal variations and work schedules. Seasonal variances are most prominent in the swimming Pool, Tourism and the Works department. Council is continuing to experience challenges in recruitment in Child Care and in Works.

Our people are our biggest assets.

## Salary bands –

### Full time employees 2022-23

Full time staff salaries are depicted below:



Executive Staff	Gross salary	Termination pays	Total payment for 2022-23
<b>General Manager – Corporate &amp; Community Services</b>	107,481.56	27,145.84	134,627.40
<b>General Manager – Operations</b>	104,109.57	5,163.70	109,273.27
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	148,973.10		148,973.10

The financial performance of Council to 30 June 2023 continues to highlight the critical position in which Council operates. Vital to the ongoing financial sustainability of Council will be addressing non-essential spending, finding a workable solution to address working capital deficiencies, and funding capital replacement to ensure essential infrastructure is available to execute key deliverables.

## Travel

A summary of travel undertaken by Council employees in 2022-23 is shown below, with all employees assuring that the expenses were for legitimate reasons:

Purpose	Attendees	Cost \$
Accommodation and travel expense for Work related trip	Works Department Employee, Water Plant Operator and Electrician	1,249
Working from Coober Pedy	Planning & Development Consultant	925
Accommodation for Contractor Electrician	Contractor Electrician	3,682
Attend Attendance at South Australian Visitor Information Centre Conference	Administration Team Leader	736
Water Tender Meeting in Adelaide	Water Manager	110
Water Technician Training	Water Plant Operator	636
Australian Water Association State Conference	Water Manager	928
	Water Manager & Water Plant operator	1,066
Attend HR course with Norman Waterhouse	Electricity Manager, Electricity Supervisor, Water Manager & Works Manager	4,126
Attend South Australian Water Industry Operations Conference	Water Manager	881
Accommodation in Coober Pedy	Water Consultant	904
Attend training in Adelaide	Water Manager & Water Plant operator	2,918
Attend training in Adelaide	Linesman	1,071
Drive in / drive out employee	Electricity Supervisor	7,726
Attend training & meetings in Adelaide	Electricity Supervisor & Manager	6,619
Training for Apprentice Linesman	Apprentice Linesman	533
Children & Youth training in Adelaide	Child and Parenting Support Coordinator & Assistant	2,387
Flights to attend Rates Conference in Adelaide	Revenue Officer	537
Work related travel and accommodation	Chief Executive Officer	10,542
Work related travel and accommodation	Administrator	17,421
Working from Coober Pedy	Senior Accountant	8,938
Working from Coober Pedy	Assistant Accountant	1,269
Working from Coober Pedy	HR Consultant	3,598
Accommodation for WHS Coordinator	WHS Coordinator	1,371
Attend Woomera Prohibited Annual Stakeholder Dinner	Corporate Services General Manager	172
Working from Coober Pedy	Breakaways Marathon Coordinator	6,078
NAIDOC filming Activity	Consultant	1,404

# municipal activities



# works department

The Works Department is mostly engaged in municipal activities which, as a rule, take priority due to it having a small work force. They are responsible for activities ranging from the airport and rubbish collection to animal management and maintenance of the town's roads.

One of the department's main objectives is to provide a high standard of maintenance and construction for roads within Coober Pedy and surrounds, using a skilled labour force and WHS compliant plant and equipment.

To perform this work and continue to build healthy ongoing relationships, and important strategic long-term planning with Government and not for profit organisations, Council must operate and maintain safe plant and equipment.

The Works Department operates in collaboration with government departments (both State and Commonwealth). These include the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) for roads, airport taxiway and aprons in accordance with the Air Safety Regulations via Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP), and it also receives grants from the Local Government Roads and Infrastructure (LCRI) funding for roadworks.

Other key challenges include an unsavory mix of old, failing machinery and a staffing shortage.

The main machines delaying our progress are the graders. Their replacement will cost around \$470,000 per unit. Two are essential to deal with seasonal issues and be available for contracting work with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport or Kan<sup>u</sup>ku-Breakaways. As at 30 June 2023, one is available and is inadequate to satisfy service obligations especially after a spate of weather events. The department is slowly falling behind on its commitments as staffing levels and failing machines have wider impact. Almost every time Council engages on projects it must repair the machines required for the work. Service requirements demand a sizeable portion of workers' time, leaving Council vulnerable to fail.





# Coober Pedy

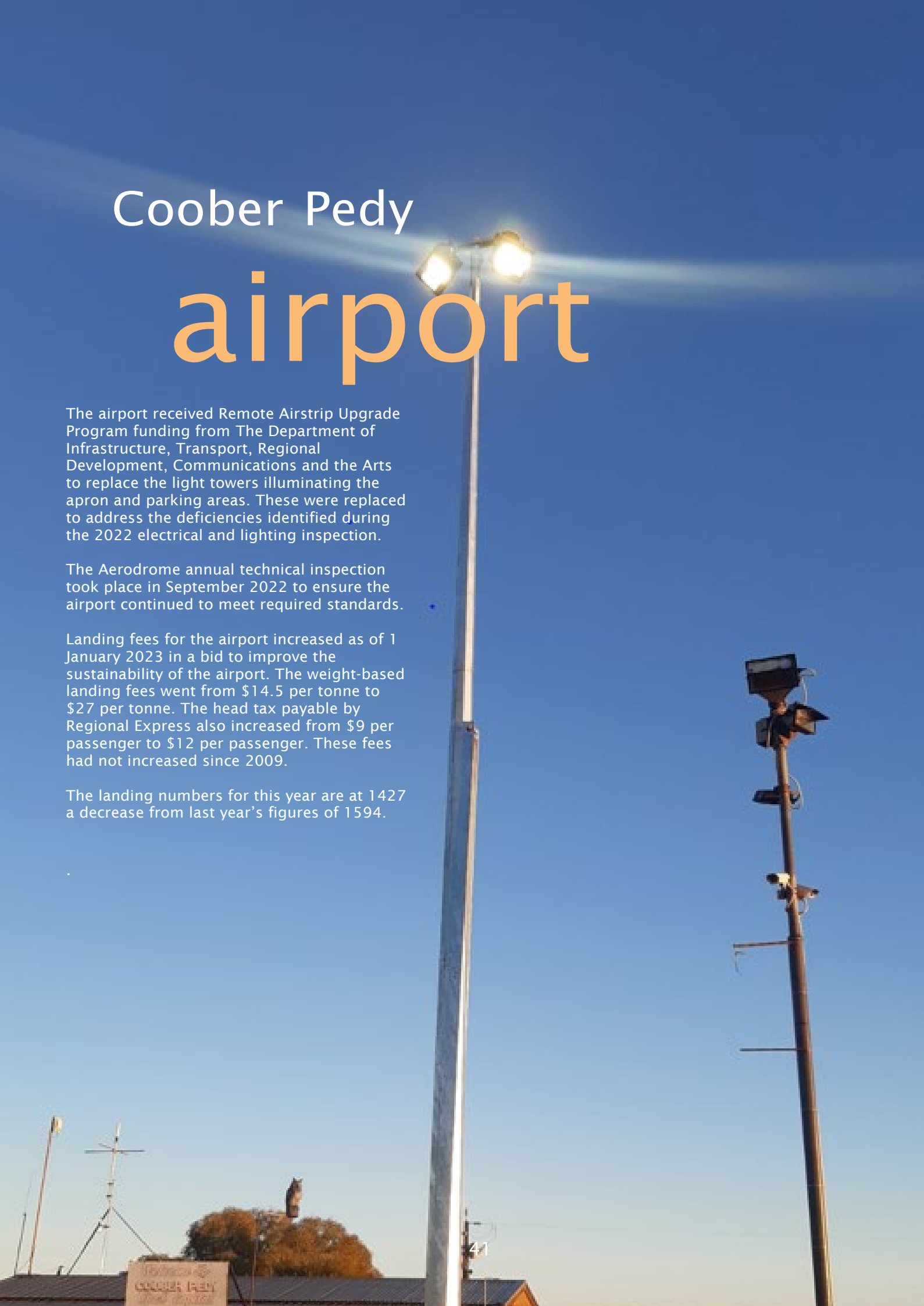
# airport

The airport received Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program funding from The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to replace the light towers illuminating the apron and parking areas. These were replaced to address the deficiencies identified during the 2022 electrical and lighting inspection.

The Aerodrome annual technical inspection took place in September 2022 to ensure the airport continued to meet required standards.

Landing fees for the airport increased as of 1 January 2023 in a bid to improve the sustainability of the airport. The weight-based landing fees went from \$14.5 per tonne to \$27 per tonne. The head tax payable by Regional Express also increased from \$9 per passenger to \$12 per passenger. These fees had not increased since 2009.

The landing numbers for this year are at 1427 a decrease from last year's figures of 1594.



# Local roads

Most roads and paths work are funded by the SA Grants Commission with any shortfall funded by general rates. In 2022-23 Council will attempt to attract increased grants to boost its repair and maintenance capacity.

The council's sealed road network has undergone ongoing repairs and maintenance over the 12-month period. Council received an allocation of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) funding for the resealing of Hospital Road, extending from Catacomb Road to Hutchison Street, as well as Hutchison Street from Hospital Road to Chucky Street.

As at 30 June 2023, it is anticipated that both the Hospital Road and Hutchison Street LRCI projects should be completed by the end of February 2024.

Council's unsealed road network has had ongoing repairs and maintenance through this period.

Council activity was limited to periodic clearance of drains and removal of vegetation. Council's main drainage problem remained in the area from Hutchison Street to the playground, past the Shell service station and Opal Inn Hotel. This problem has been caused by development which, over time, has reversed the natural flow into a series of minor catchments. What is now required is a major pipe extended over a considerable distance to enable sufficient drainage over a large area. Council had a further drainage problem at a caravan park entrance caused by development, which may be controlled by re-directing water flow. When possible, Council will run the Hutchison Street catchment down Seventeen Mile Road, using the street opposite to carry excess water away from the park itself.

## Private works

During this period the Works Department undertook various private works, including a project to seal the carpark for Umoona Health. Additionally, the council was awarded a significant contract by S.A Road Services to perform repairs on Kempe Road. The Kempe Road project is well underway and is scheduled for completion on 18 October 2023.



## Parks and Gardens

The Parks and Gardens team have been maintaining the town oval, orchard, and various reserves. In the last 12 months there have been some shortages of effluent for the oval storage tanks, which has resulted in having to use potable water for short periods of time.

The team has also been hard at work, maintaining the playground, which has been a focal point for recreation. However, this comes with its own set of challenges, as some individuals use these areas for consuming alcohol, making the job more demanding.

Additionally, our irrigation network has had to endure constant acts of vandalism, resulting in the need to inspect the network more frequently.

## Environmental Management

Compliance workload on local government has increased markedly with the introduction of and changes to legislation. Through Light Regional Council, Council has seconded an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) who performs regulatory functions and community health training. Inspections of food handling and preparation premises are undertaken to ensure premises are operating to the required standards, along with water, legionella and other testing regimes.

## Waste Management

Over the course of this 12-month period, we experienced intermittent breakdowns of the garbage truck. These unforeseen mechanical issues resulted in the temporary hire of an alternative garbage truck. This hire was required from December 2022 until late January 2023. Compounding the situation, our secondary garbage truck was also non-operational during this period.

Council waste depot operated as normal during this period. We had one major breakdown of our Excavator that resulted in the need to bring in a local contractor to perform some excavation work over a 2-day period. This breakdown was a result from age and wear on the machine.

## Local Nuisance & Litter Control

Operating under the new Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016, Council now has greater tools to assist members of our community that may find themselves at the detriment of Local Nuisance issues that unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of amenity of an area. Such as:

- Excessive noise
- Unsightly / unsanitary conditions
- Odour

The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 (the Act) was developed to support and enhance local amenity values by strengthening local nuisance and litter management services within South Australian communities.

Under the Act, the Council is responsible for responding to community complaints and enquiries regarding local nuisances in the Council area.

Council staff respond to complaints under this legislation and during the 2022-23 year Council did not issue any abatement notices or undertake any formal enforcement action or prosecutions.

# Regulatory Services

Regulatory Services provided by Council include:

- Planning
- Building
- Development
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Services
- Fire Prevention
- Dog and Cat Management
- By-laws
- Swimming Pool

## Animals

Animal control is an ongoing concern, especially given the surge in reports related to animal attacks in the last 12 months. The increasing number of these incidents highlights the urgency of this issue.

Council has sought external assistance for expert advice and training to be able to better manage this problem.

## Community Amenities

Council's public toilets continue to be an issue with equipment failure and vandalism, resulting in the closure of the toilets for periods of time. These Exeloo's need to be replaced with less sophisticated toilet blocks.

## Planning and Development

Since March 2021, Council is under the new legislation of the Planning and Design Code under the PDI Act 2016.

The State Planning Commission remains the relevant planning authority for all development applications within Council's area. PBS Australia stopped his service to Council during 2022-23.

The Development Services Team was contracted from the City of Salisbury to provide strategic advice to Council and the State Planning Commission.

The Underground Construction Committee that was previously established has been stopped. Council and its contractor are working towards better guidelines for Coober Pedy. Council is trying to get the State Planning Committee to adapt the legislation to underground dwelling and develop guidelines specifically adapted to Coober Pedy.

The Development Services Team has provided training to Council staff, allowing Council to provide clear information to the community. The oversight of building development work remains with our contractor to ensure safety and proper advice is given to the community.

## Recreation

The Council operates the Coober Pedy swimming pool which, due to the extreme summer climate, is an essential public service. The pool is owned by the Government of South Australia and operated by Council, which is reimbursed for operating costs through a shared use agreement enabling dual use by the school and the community.

The Coober Pedy Together and Council Playground Committee have improved the playground by going through a tender process for playground equipment. A new swing, climbing module, dancing snake and rainbow sambas were installed.



# Risk and Work Health & Safety (WHS)

## David Kelly

Chief Executive Officer

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) was an area requiring significant focus and still does. A health check by the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme in November 2022 highlighted that Council was non-conforming in all areas. Stevie Sanders, on behalf of the Local Government Risk Services (LGRS), offered the following services to address our non-conformance and Council accepted and began implementing.

This project is focussed on the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (WCS) assisting the Council to design, develop, implement, and monitor its Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System.

The project will ensure that Council has:

- determined an appropriate design of its WHS system (integrated or siloed).
- assigned accountabilities for and responsibilities for WHS within its workforce.
- appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and directing action within its WHS management system; and
- mechanisms in place to drive continual improvement of its WHS management system.

The activities to support the above will include: a system design workshop, plan and program review and development, action plan development, a staged system implementation process and workshops with key stakeholders as required to achieve the project outcomes. A scoping meeting will be held with key stakeholders to confirm the project outcomes.

Implementation of the WHS Management System will be led by Council, with assistance provided by LGAWCS. Actions to progress the implementation will be allocated to those officers with assigned accountability and responsibility.

The completion of actions will be monitored and reported on by LGAWCS and escalated if necessary. Progress will be reported to Council and LGAWCS Board on a regular basis. Initial resourcing will see an additional WCS resource (above the usual risk and Safety advisor (RSA) role that supports Council) being allocated to provide periodic as needed support as project lead to coordinate the activities of Council resources to drive the improvements in the Safety System. Council will provide resources in terms of dedicated time from current staff to advance the project in terms of transactional actions arising from the project.



# Return to Work Claims

## Return to Work Claims\*

Financial Year	RTW Claims Coober Pedy	RTW Claims Group Average	LTI Days Coober Pedy	LTI Days Group Average	Duration Rate (days) Coober Pedy	Duration Rate (days) Group Average
2020-21	1	2	0	19	-	19
2021-22	2	2	0	18	-	18
2022-23	0	0	0	-	-	-

\*Data is accurate from the Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) Member Centre as at 27 July 2022 and is subject to change due to on-going claims and costs which may carry over into other financial years.

## Return to Work Claims Costs\*

Financial Year	Claims Cost Coober Pedy	Claims Cost Group Average
2020-21	\$23,471	\$22,357
2021-22	\$182,119	\$18,685
2022-23		

\*Data is accurate from the Local Government Risk Services (LGRS) Member Centre as at 27 July 2022 and is subject to change due to on-going claims and costs which may carry over into other financial years.

# Lost Time to Injury Summary

## LTI Data Summary - Member

Year	Number of FTE	Number of Claims	Number of LTIs	LTI Days	Frequency Rate	Duration Rate	Incident Rate	5 Day Number	1 Year Number
2021	50	1	0	0	0.0	-	0.0	0	0
2022	40	2	0	0	0.0	-	0.0	0	0

## LTI Data Summary - Group Average

Year	Number of FTE	Number of Claims	Number of LTIs	LTI Days	Frequency Rate	Duration Rate	Incident Rate	5 Day Number	1 Year Number
2021	43	2	1	19	11.7	19.0	2.3	1	0
2022	40	2	1	18	12.6	18.0	2.5	1	0
2023	37	1	0	2	0.0	-	0.0	0	0

Incident Rate = (LTI/Employees) \* 100

Frequency Rate = LTI/(Hours Worked) \* 1,000,000  
Duration Rate = LTI Days/LTIHours Worked  
= 500 per Employee per quarter, or 2,000 per year

Number FTE = Full Time Equivalent. Where FTE have not been supplied, the latest available FTE Numbers have been applied.



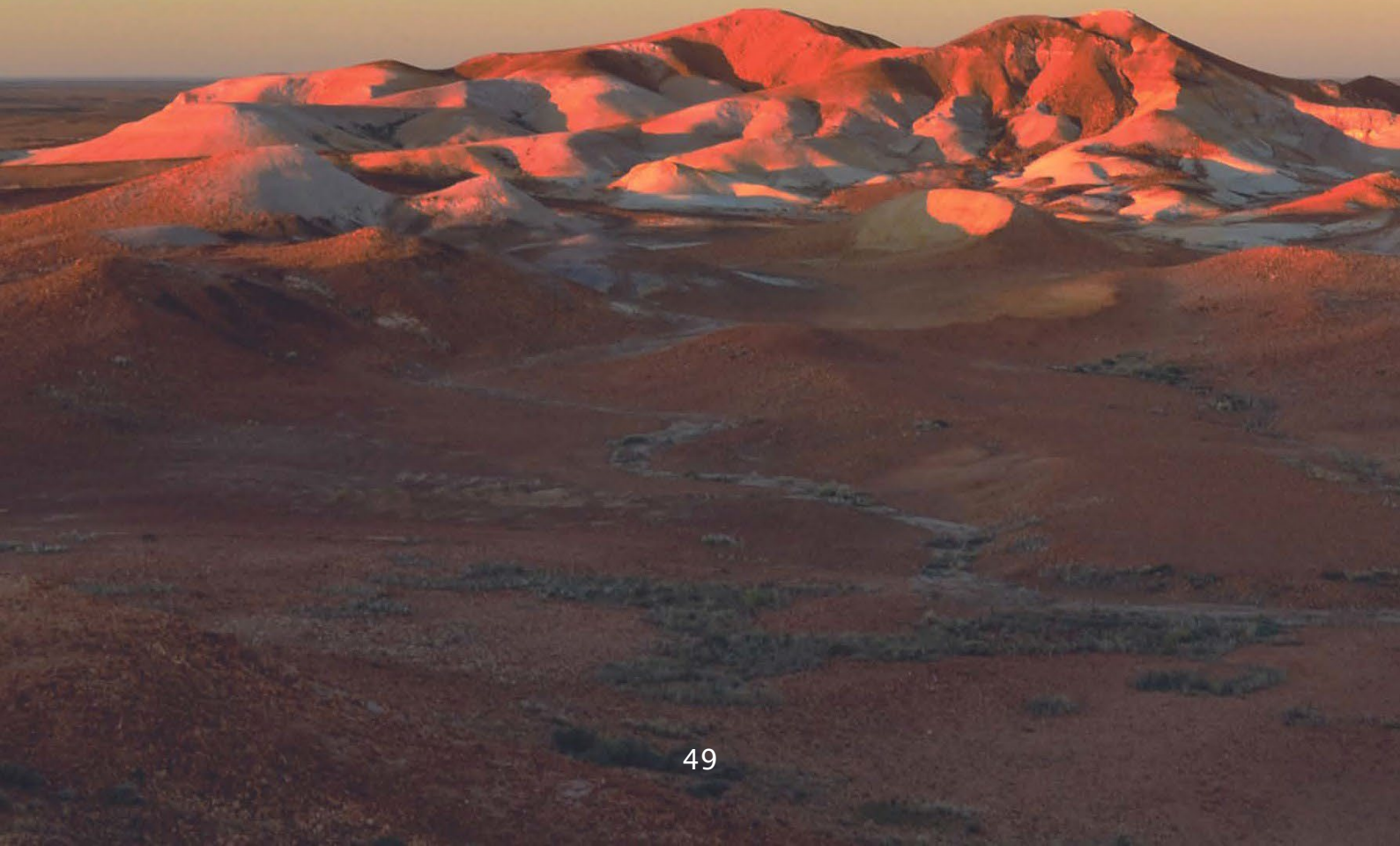


# Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park is the traditional land of the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara (AMY) people and is an important part of the Coober Pedy district.

Through a funding agreement with the South Australian Government, the Council undertakes the day-to-day management of the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park, with duties delegated to Council staff on behalf of the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Board, which sets the directions and work plan for the park independent of Council.

The park's vision provides a key focus on community whilst protecting its culture and environment. The Kanku has always protected us, the land, food, plants and animals. We will work together to keep it strong so that the Kanku can welcome people and provide a vibrant Coober Pedy community.



# key achievements

## of the Kanku-Breakaways team

- Processing and issuing 13 commercial tour operator licence applications.
  - Collecting fees for visitor permits via the Coober Pedy Visitor Centre.
  - Coordination of a successful Great Kanku-Breakaways Marathon and Fun Run in June 2023, attracting more than 100 entries. Unfortunately, rain interrupted the event and caused it to be a very challenging day. Feedback was very positive from participants.
  - NAIDOC Week activities promoting the Park and supporting the NAIDOC theme of “For our Elders.”
  - Management of six commercial filming applications, providing cultural and environmental protection whilst promoting the Kanku-Breakaways and the region. The most prominent being the “Stars on Mars” filming.
  - Rehabilitation of areas of the Park where visitors have driven off track.
  - Compliance monitoring of Park visitors to ensure activities are as permitted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Key areas of concern include vehicles driving off track, collection of rocks and artefacts, payment of permit fees and use of drones. Signage upgraded to assist correct visitor behaviour.
  - Support of school group and Clontarf Academy visits to the Park.
  - Kanku-Breakaways staff attendance at the online 2021 Indigenous Desert Alliance Workshops, at which Park staff formed connections with indigenous ranger teams across the desert region and sharing of knowledge and ideas.
  - Undertaking of physical survey of all infrastructure management plan locations to assist with detailed planning for future infrastructure.
  - Working with Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board to assist AMY Aboriginal Corporation with undertaking projects as part of Healthy Country Plan with assistance from 10 Deserts. This resulted in a language trip with AMYAC appointed language teachers with at the end of 2022 with the development of two books in language for AMYAC members.
- Aboriginal Heritage Act training and public information session to provide staff and the public with information on the protection of Aboriginal Heritage.
- Investigating alternative means to present information on park including options for augmented reality.

### Key challenges include:

Managing visitor compliance with park rules, particularly driving off track and walking on hills and the associated environmental and cultural impacts.

Raising awareness of the traditional use of the park, particularly where there are different rules for visitors depending on their connection to Country.

Navigating governance requirements for ground disturbing activities as part of Infrastructure Master Plan implementation within the park, a registered Aboriginal Heritage Site.

# water production & distribution

The Coober Pedy Water Supply System, which consists of two bores, 26km of bore pipeline, desalination plants, storage and town reticulation, has been in operation for 38 years, the sewerage treatment plant has been in operation for 29 years and the new Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant for 22 years. Overall performance of operations remains at a high standard and will continue to do so for years to come with regular maintenance.

## Borefield

The bore pump variable speed drives have been very effective with still little, or no maintenance required to Variable Frequency (VF) drives and bore pumps. The telemetry and computer system for bore operations is operating effectively with nil service interruptions.

A new battery charger has been installed to better float power levels across the generator batteries and has been operational with nil issue.

The Blue Brute pipeline system has continued to keep Water Supply staff busy with the number of breaks over the last year, with breakages in line with previous years (between 2 to 6 per year).

With fuel prices constantly increasing, Council will be investigating alternative solutions for green energy operation soon.

Genset motors have had regular scheduled maintenance and are operating with relatively no mechanical issues other than a small motor hunting issue resulting from poor actuator design on the Cummins gensets.



## Reticulation System

The town reticulation pumping system is operating well with the identification and resolution of the faulted pressure sensor / Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) configuration being a great success. The back-up pumps continue to run on a midnight change over roster, reducing the run hours and maintenance on other the pumps.

The town reticulation system has seen a few improvements with renewal of several mains valves, and replacement of poly-pipe in problematic sections of the network. Ongoing occasional odour and discoloured water in some areas are still occurring due to the rusting of remaining old ductile iron and cast fittings that are still in the system. The Water Department is committed to the ongoing maintenance and replacement of old fittings and valves in these areas as time and budgets permit and are also flushing these areas frequently. Consumers are encouraged to report any odour or discoloured water in the system.

The scheduled maintenance and renewal of service lines and mains in the reticulation system has again seen a further reduction in the water loss on the ground with the number of leaks in the past year being further reduced. With the continuation of mains and service renewals, water supply staff can hope to see possible further improvements in the reduction of water loss in the future. Water Supply staff continue to receive notification of leaks from consumers which is largely encouraged to enable prompt attention by staff.

Storage tanks are in a good state and continue to hold water without any major issues.

## Water Treatment Plant

The water treatment plants are operating quite efficiently with town demand being met easily both in the summer and winter months. The 2020 rebuild of the original RO membrane array continues to be a success, with very little issue and consistent higher production capacity for town supply. The pretreatment array in both RO's will require attention in the form of multimedia replacement, as the multimedia has reached the end of its active lifespan and is vital to continuing production of good quality potable water.

## Water Quality

The District Council of Coober Pedy Water Supply is committed to providing the highest achievable water quality as per guidelines recommended by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), the Office of the Technical Regulator and the Department of Health and Wellbeing, which provide the basis for maintaining quality control.

Water samples that are collected from sampling points at selected areas of town undergo stringent bacteriological and chemical analysis monthly, and results are received within a week for the case of any tests results that exceed limits. Water samples are collected and sent via courier to the Australian Water Quality Centre (AWQC), which has relocated their laboratories to Victoria Square in the city. Daily tests are also carried out in-house to maintain quality. Zero instances of non-compliance.

## Sewerage System

Treated effluent quality has been maintained to correct requirements as per government statutory regulations and samples are also sent monthly to AWQC for analysis. Inflow of effluent remains steady, and re-use of treated effluent has been satisfactory as noticed in the condition of our town oval and orchard. We will be looking into providing treated-effluent for use on the school oval in the coming year – the infrastructure is already in place to recommence this service.



# highlights for 2022-23

## **Reticulation System Improvement:**

The Water Team successfully identified and rectified a pressure issue arising from a faulty pressure sensor, reticulation PLC, and our Citect platform. This fix involved the replacement of the pressure sensor and the implementation of updated coding and functionality within the reticulation PLC, ensuring consistent pressure within the mains network. Throughout the year, mains pressure was effectively managed at 550kPa, with minor fluctuations based on water usage and demand.

## **Operator Training and Local Traineeship:**

Our commitment to enhancing our team's qualifications was evident as two operators underwent formal training, with one operator completing most of their certification. We also welcomed a local trainee, who is halfway through their traineeship as at 30 June 2023 and is expected to complete it by mid-2024.

## **CWMS Installation Upgrade:**

The Water Team identified and rectified a faulty Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) installation on Hutchison Street, collaborating with a local plumber to resolve the issue. This enhancement enabled four additional properties to connect to the CWMS system, ensuring the correct depth and fall gradient for effective service.

## **RO1 Filtration Unit:**

To maintain water cleanliness and follow industry recommendations, a bag filtration unit was installed on RO1. This unit has operated with satisfactory results, with no adverse impact on water flow or production capacity.

## **Operator of the Year Award:**

One of our team members received the 'SA Operator of the Year 2022' award from the Water Industry Operators Association of SA (WIOA) and the Office of the Technical Regulator. This recognition highlights our team's dedication and hard work, acknowledged by industry leaders.

## **Water Dispenser Upgrades:**

Planned upgrades for water dispensers located beside the Council chambers were approved and ordered. These upgraded dispensers will offer electronic transactions and pay-wave capability, reducing downtime from mechanical component damage and eliminating the need for staff to handle cash. Consumers will only be charged for the water they use, preventing unnecessary water wastage.

## **Water Divestment Tender Collaboration:**

Collaboration with the City of Playford for the Water Divestment Tender led to extensive document compilation, improved record-keeping, detailed asset management planning, and a comprehensive outlook for the future maintenance and upgrades of our water supply system.

## **Mains Breakage Reduction:**

Notably, there were zero major mains breakages in the 2022-23 year, reflecting adjustments made within the desalination plant reticulation array. Additionally, there was an overall reduction in system leaks, dropping from approximately 300 per year to around 100 for the calendar year.

## **CWMS Dump Point Investigation:**

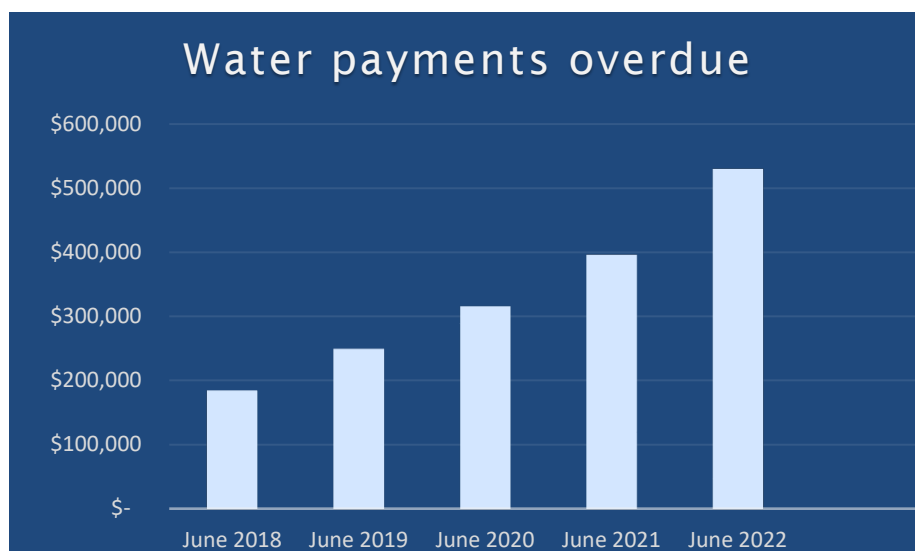
The investigation into automating the dump point to empty into the CWMS progressed, exploring options for relocation to a new site or integration at its current location. This will continue into the 2023-24 financial year, with a final decision and implementation on the horizon.

## **Backhoe New Holland L90B Rebuild:**

A comprehensive 'mine-spec' rebuild for the New Holland L90B was scheduled, with an expected completion date in July 2023. This rebuild ensures the continued serviceability of the backhoe for the water supply team and allows for backup operations for other council departments when needed.



The following is a comparison of water overdue accounts from each financial year from 2018 to 2023:



Customer charges fully fund the production and supply of water. The following fees applied for 2022-23:

Customer	Tariff Level	Rate / kl
Residential	Tier 1	\$6.43
Residential	Tier 2	\$9.00
Residential	Tier 3	\$10.26
Commercial		\$9.00
Wholesale		\$6.43

# electricity distribution

The Office of the Technical Regulator and Bestec's Safety, Reliability, Maintenance and Technical Management Plan (SRMTMP) Audit Report 2016 highlighted the risks of potential step voltages exposed to residents in the event of lightning strikes or earthing system failure. Planning is required to identify higher risk areas and prioritise infrastructure relocation based on risk is continuing.

We have two Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) feeders that require extensive relocation of poles and transformers due to the location of the asset being over private property and in inaccessible locations. This is not only inconvenient to the owner of the properties but is also a high safety risk to our electrical staff and requires extensive capital works funding.

There are multiple Stobie poles on private properties in the township that require relocation, but also require capital works funds to complete. As one example, McKenzie Road costs are estimated at approximately \$250,000.

The electricity distribution team have obtained E-drawings (engineered drawings) which helps the electricity supply to construct the powerlines and associated equipment to specifications to comply with WHS and insurance purposes.

The Electricity supply has replaced 6 stobie poles due to vehicle damage and replaced 2 SWER recloser. (High Voltage Protection device).

The Electricity supply has gone through the distribution network and started to replace Low Voltage isolators, vegetation clearance around powerlines and replaced most of the street lighting to Light Emitting Diode (LED).



The old Hino Elevated Work Platform (EWP) is now redundant and needs replacement as it will reduce outage times and fatigue management on the workers. Example - Main electrical storm took 3 days to restore power to the whole town with only 1 EWP. We are still waiting for a replacement but do not have the capital funds to do so.

The Electricity department has purchased a second hand 20t Franna Crane, due to the Proline boring crane having a major leak/crack in the turret of the boom.

## Power station

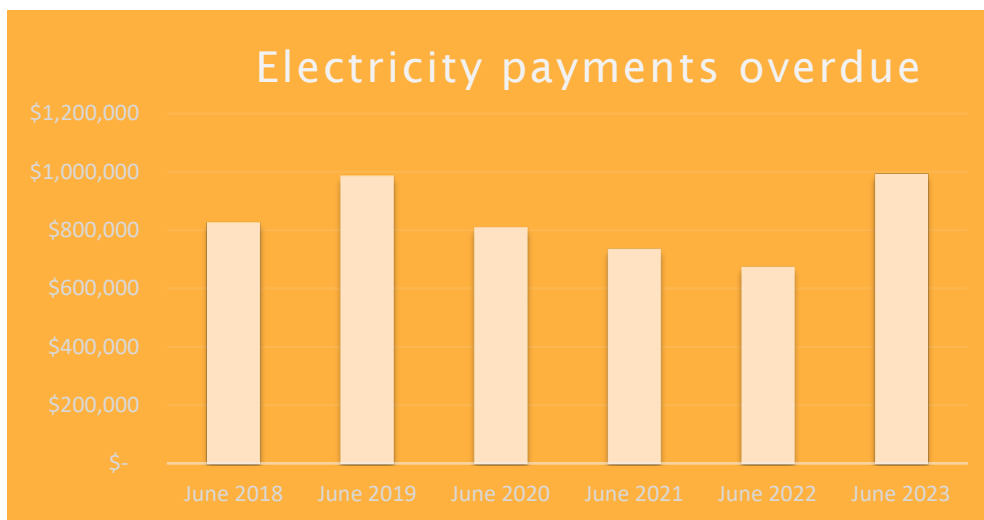
Output: YTD Totals

2022-23	Diesel Gen	Renewable
Jul-22	28.1%	71.9%
Aug-22	24.5%	75.5%
Sep-22	15.8%	84.2%
Oct-22	19.1%	80.9%
Nov-22	17.6%	82.4%
Dec-22	26.9%	73.1%
Jan-23	28.5%	71.5%
Feb-23	24.6%	75.4%
Mar-23	20.8%	79.2%
Apr-23	18.2%	81.8%
May-23	36.4%	63.6%
Jun-23	50.5%	51.5%

Customer Type	Cents p/kwh
Residential	0.347
Commercial	0.382
State & Commonwealth	0.900
Residential Supply Charge	0.995 c/day
Business & State Government Supply Charge	1.137 c/day

## Electricity Overdue Payments

The following is a comparison of electricity overdue accounts from each financial year from 2018 to 2023:







# Child Care

## Mini Gems Children's Centre

Council's Mini Gems Child Care Centre has operated for more than 20 years, enabling Council to provide a high level of service to the community and employment opportunities on a full time or casual basis.

An accredited organisation under the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), the Council-owned center provides education and care to 211 children funded by an annual Commonwealth grant of \$200,000, approved to June 2023. At full capacity, Mini Gems could facilitate 41 children under care. During the year, numbers peaked at 19 children under care, with forecast growth for the following year.

Mini Gems' aim is to address barriers to childcare participation, particularly targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable families and communities.



The Centre provided a variety of educational activities and experiences and celebrated many cultural events throughout the year:

- NAIDOC Week
- Hosted pyjama day and breakfast and a fundraiser supporting children in foster care
- Celebrated Daffodil Day for cancer patients
- Science Week
- Book Week
- Children's Day
- Christmas Party
- Halloween Party
- Mini Gems Open Day
- Drumming Monkey Show
- Pancake Day
- 4 weeks of project called "Learn, Grow, Eat and Go"
- Opal Festival

## Mother's Day brunch & Community Dinner

Our Centre organised a special Mother's Day dinner for all the women in Coober Pedy Community for celebrating the Mother's Day at the Big Winch 360.

We invited the whole community and over 50 people turned up for the dinner. We provided a special dinner buffet including a variety of desserts, live music and special gifts for everyone.

People brought their families and children, and it was a great atmosphere for the celebration, catching up with their friends and families, the children were playing around with their peers on the lawn. Everyone spent a great night out together.

At the end of the dinner, we were presented with special Mother's Day gifts which were some pots of flowers, mugs and Shelley's Underground Nail & Beauty gift vouchers. Then they were taken Mother's Day photos with special photo frames by Madu the Centre manager.

## Opal Festival Parade

This year we decided the theme of our float EVERY CHILD IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FLOWER, AND ALL TOGETHER THEY MAKE THIS WORLD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN."

We worked hard to prepare and decorate our float for the day involving all our educators. On that day, our children and their families came, dressed up and participated in the parade. We won the Overall Best Float prize as a whole center. After the parade, the children and their families engaged in carnival games, face paintings, glitter tattoos and art activities at our booth.

## Harmony Day celebration

On 27 of March, Mini Gems Children's Centre invited a whole community to participate in "Harmony Day Celebration" at the school gym. We asked the community to wear their cultural attire or something orange for the day. Our educators wore Reddi- Sri Lankan women's traditional attire, Yukata- Japanese Summer Kimono, and Cowgirl hat- represent Aussies. Some of the community members wore Saron-Sri Lankan's men attire and Hijab-Muslim's traditional attire.

Aboriginal Elder Aunty Tanya performed Welcome to Country, and she talked about how important we respect each other's cultures and traditions, we unite the whole community and thank to first Australian people for sharing the country. She displayed her painting representing "Coober Pedy".

After the welcoming ceremony we had an Easter bunny visit escorted by Coober Pedy CFS. The children enjoyed interacting with the bunny receiving Easter eggs and participating in "Sleeping Bunnies" song with the bunny.

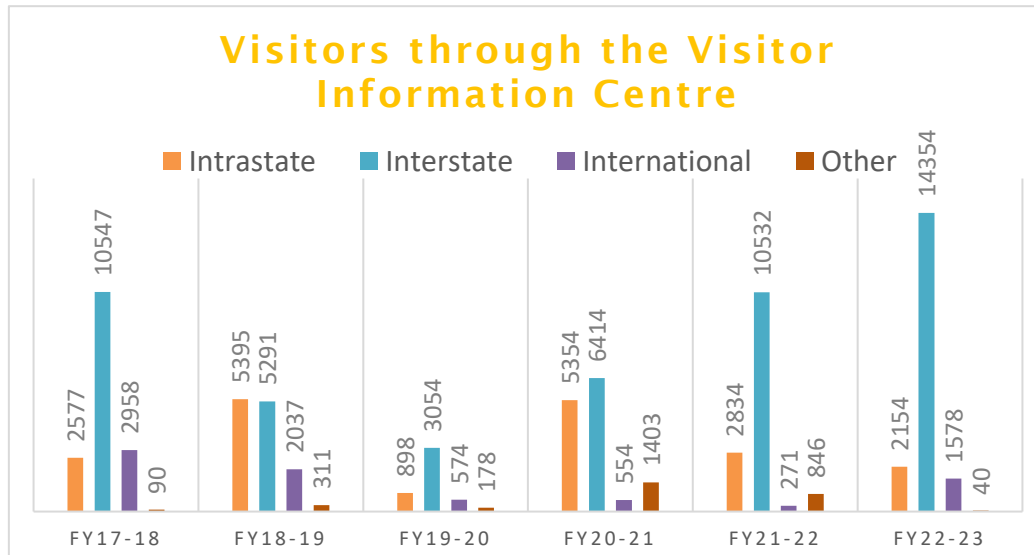
Adults and the children participated in a variety of games, such as Placing the Eye on the elephant, Lime and Spoon race, Buns Eating Competition, Yogurt Feeding Competition and Tug of War.

Throughout the day, we provided a variety of cultural lunches, drinks, fruits, and sweets. Everyone enjoyed tasty food and had a great time as the whole community.



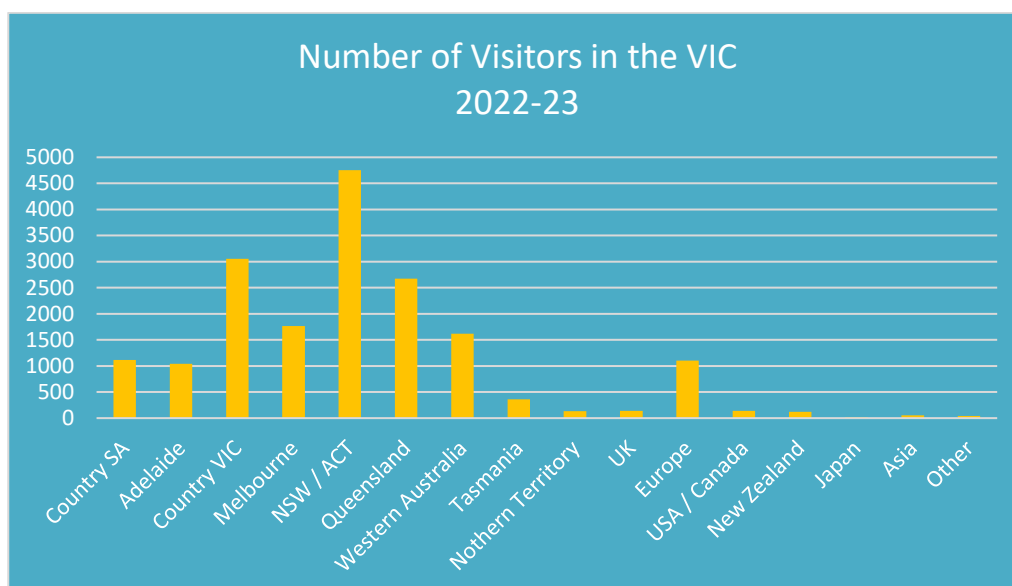
# Tourism

Coober Pedy welcomes more than 150,000 visitors each year, with Council supporting the local tourism industry by operating the Visitor Information Centre (VIC). During the year, 18,126 visitors were served by the VIC, with the following breakdown:



Because Coober Pedy is remote and isolated, and due to the hot summer months, the VIC has a special opening agreement since 2020 that allows it to keep its certification and reduce operating costs. Two Visitor Information Officers were employed from March 2023 to October 2023.

In May 2023, Coober Pedy won the Small-Town Tourism Award sponsored by TiCSA. This award has given a lot more exposure to Coober Pedy. Our town has been featured in 3 different magazines and different posts have been shared on social media. A social media post offered an all-inclusive package, which ran for a few days and was shared across South Australia. The VIC is still taking commissions to offset the cost to ratepayers. The VIC is also selling souvenirs, which has been the major revenue for 2022-23.



# children & youth

## Program Performance

The Council has been the beneficiary of funding allocated for the Child and Parenting Support (CaPS) Program, commonly known as the Community Child Care Fund (CCCCF).

This initiative, supported by a Commonwealth grant set to conclude in June 2024, aims to establish and implement an outreach service focused on enhancing childcare attendance and fostering improved family engagement within the community.

### Program Overview:

Under the auspices of this grant, the Council has appointed a dedicated CaPS Coordinator responsible for delivering targeted early intervention and preventative assistance to children and their families. The program's primary focus is on improving the developmental trajectories and general welfare of children aged 0 to 12, with the possibility of extending support to individuals up to the age of 18 if necessary. Additionally, the initiative seeks to reinforce the capabilities of individuals in parental or caregiver roles.

### Scope of Services:

The central objective of the service revolves around identifying and mitigating issues such as potential neglect or abuse within families. CaPS implements interventions or facilitates suitable referrals to address these concerns before they escalate. Operating from various facilities in the Coober Pedy vicinity, the program extends its support to other child and parenting initiatives within the community, striving to enhance their effectiveness wherever feasible.

### Kindy Gym

Tailored for children aged 0 to 5, this program convenes every Saturday morning, emphasising the enhancement of fine and gross motor skills through diverse activities and play equipment. Notably, the program facilitates socialisation opportunities for children and parents within the community, with consistent attendance ranging from a minimum of fifteen individuals to a maximum of 47.

### Community Soccer

Scheduled every Sunday for children aged 8 to 15 and adults, this program serves as a physical outlet for older children in the community seeking sports engagement. Beyond physical activity, it fosters interactions between children and adult figures within the community, leading to noteworthy collaborations among local educators, council members, students, and business leaders.

### Special Events

CaPS has actively participated in various community events, including specialised events for Easter, the local Recreation playground opening, International Women's Day, Breakaway Marathon, and Blue Light Disco events. Collaboration with Mini Gems Childcare Centre has been a consistent practice, particularly in providing activities for younger children aged 6 months to 5 years during community events.

The current operational year has witnessed a notable increase in attendance from both children and parents participating in local programs and events organised or endorsed by CaPS. Two primary programs offered under this initiative have garnered significant community engagement and support.



# Coober Pedy together

Coober Pedy Together is about bringing change, community spirit, community pride and a sense of purpose for the community of Coober Pedy. It's about creating a common plan and vision. It is about resourcing the community to be able to create the place in which they would like to live.

The work is led by a community elected facilitation group. The work is guided by a document titled Coober Pedy: Our Story, Our Potential, Our Next Steps. This document is a collation of all the information, ideas, and thoughts put forward by the community through a series of community workshops.

Council funds the facilitation and small activities of Coober Pedy Together (CPT), but do not seek to control or lead the initiative. Council see the initiative as the voice of and led by the community. Council plays a role as stakeholder. Council has committed to support Coober Pedy Together through to 30 June 2025. Working protocols that determine how DCCP and CPT collaborate are in place.

CPT are involved in a range of activities including community events, grant applications, stakeholder (business and government) conversations, supporting local organisations with governance and planning support, exploring possibilities, strategic planning, and joint projects. CPT were involved in the following throughout the 2022-23 financial year:

- Development and selection of priorities for Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 3.
- Tree planting with the community playground, which culminated in a community event which saw over 200 people come together to plant 300 native trees with support from SA Arid Lands Landscape Board through funding and implementation.
- Facilitated and supported the community engagement events and conversations with the Honourable Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government.
- Established and further developed relationships with key stakeholders across local organisations, businesses, the resources sector, and both state and federal governments.
- Facilitated regular community workshop and conversations to provide any one across the community, the opportunity to put ideas forward, to get involved, or to ask any questions.
- Facilitated A Coober Pedy Christmas in November 2022 – a community event held at the Croatian Club, attracting over 500 people, including markets, food stalls, carols, entertainment, and more.
- Facilitated events and activities that raised over \$9000 for new picnic benches at the playground.
- Facilitated and supported a playground action team, to oversee upgrades and further works.
- CPT invited and facilitated a visit by Her Excellency the Honourable France Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia in May 2023. The visit was part of CPT's role in reestablishing positive connections and relationships with key stakeholders, including Government House, both State and Commonwealth Departments, and industry and business representatives. This provides an opportunity for residents to directly connect with key people and ensures that Coober Pedy has people of influence advocating on its behalf. The conversations are critical to gaining the support the community needs. These visits and conversations come at no cost to ratepayers.

- Held conversations to bring together a proposal to establish a co-working space that could support local clubs and organisations in areas of need such as governance, financial management, storage of confidential documents, grant and other funding applications, and with a space to meet. A community meeting was held to progress this concept on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at the RSL. Conversations to find a way to fund the concept are in progress. There would be no initial or ongoing cost to ratepayers.
- The facilitation group are exploring possible industry and business opportunities, that could provide ongoing opportunities for employment and future development of the community, as well as provide long-term stability. This includes conversations with potential start-ups and services, ongoing conversations with potential finance and banking providers, amongst others.
- Actively supported the development of Dusty Wicket- a large-scale documentary film that tells the story of our local cricket team and community. CPT are working with two filmmakers who have begun the workshop process to bring the story together. This work is critical in demonstrating the liveability and potential of Coober Pedy in being a place where people can find and build a life of meaning and opportunity. There is no initial or ongoing cost to ratepayers.
- CPT supported the Drive In to complete a masterplan process, which saw the delivery of finalised and costed masterplan for the site. A process to source funds to move to a plan and build phase is underway. It will ensure that the drive-in remains a significant community asset for many years to come and provide a modern film experience for locals and visitors. DCCP provided funding for the masterplan process. The plan and build phase will only commence once funding is secured. There will be no ongoing cost to ratepayers.
- CPT worked in partnership with the Local Government Association to complete an open tender process to select contractors for the upgrade of the Coober Pedy playground. There were no initial or ongoing costs to ratepayers. All upgrades were funded through Commonwealth and philanthropic funds.
- CPT continued to work to bring together a list of shovel-ready projects to help move the community forward, all based on consultation and ideas received from the community. CPT are working to look for funds to implement projects.

There were no initial or ongoing costs to ratepayers. CPT are working to get Coober Pedy back in conversations for multiple grant and funding streams. CPT worked with multiple community groups (as requested) to help find funds.

- CPT began holding conversations with key services including education, health, and policing to find ways to collaborate to ensure long-term viability and outcomes. For example, quality housing, affordable access to travel options in and out of town, and access to services and activities for families have all been identified as significant factors in making it difficult to recruit and retain professionals. CPT began conversations with a property developer and the State Government to propose a series of pilot projects, such as building new housing, offering welcome and ongoing social activities, and providing greater access in and out of town to attract and retain professionals in key roles. CPT engaged in conversation with travel operators to explore new potential services. There were no ongoing or initial costs to ratepayers. Once key projects are delivered, they would offer a potential expansion of the rate base to DCCP.
- CPT actively worked to grow friendship with AMYAC, Umoona Community Council, and DCCP, acknowledging and recognising the significance of all these organisations in providing support and governance to the community. For example, without the incredible work and support of AMYAC and Umoona Community Council, the production of Stars on Mars, of which many residents and businesses across town enjoyed the benefits of, would not have been possible. We need to get to know, respect, and value each other.
- CPT began work to bring together a community plan to take Coober Pedy into the next season. The plan would be a collation of all the community ideas and conversation gathered, and an active plan and document that highlights what needs to take place for Coober Pedy to thrive.

This is not an exhaustive list of what CPT were involved in, but a snapshot. Any member of the community who would like to know more, ask questions, or get involved are very welcome to speak to any of the facilitation group members. CPT holds its own ABN and bank account to keep funds separate and accountable. A financial report showing current funds and DCCP contribution to 30 June 2023 follows. Please note that the cost of the facilitator includes all travel costs, additional costs for activities including community meals as needed.



**CPT Financial Report - 30 June 2023**

**CPT Account - WESTPAC**

**INCOME**

General Funds	\$ -
Sponsorship-Donations	\$ 750.00

**Project Funds**

Picnic Benches for Playground	\$ 8,966.40
Dusty Wicket	\$ 341.10

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,057.50</b>
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**EXPENSES**

General Expenses	\$ 500.00
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**Project Expenses**

Picnic Benches for Playground	\$ 7,986.00
Dusty Wicket	\$ -

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,486.00</b>
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<b>Surplus-Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 1,571.50</b>
------------------------	--------------------

**Currently Holding**

Picnic Benches for Playground	\$ 980.40
Dusty Wicket	\$ 341.10
Other	\$ 250.00

**DCCP Contribution FY2022-23**

**Income**

DCCP Budget Funds 2022-23	\$85,400.00
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$85,400.00</b>
---------------------	--------------------

**Expenses**

CPT Facilitation Support	\$79,500.00
Social Styles PD Workshop	\$ 5,900.00

\*\*Please note this includes hours, all travel costs (flights, accommodation, car hire), and additional facilitation costs (community meals, incidentals)\*\*

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$85,400.00</b>
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<b>Surplus-Deficit</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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# appendices

Appendix 1:

2022-23 General Purpose Financial  
Statements for the year ended  
30 June 2023



# District Council of Coober Pedy

## GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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District Council  
of Coober Pedy

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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## District Council of Coober Pedy

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Council certificate

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#### Certification of Financial Statements

**We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form.**

**In our opinion:**

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards,
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2023 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year,
- with the exception of documentation around policies and procedures, contract registers and some system user controls, the internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year,
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.



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**Mr Mark Austin**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

23 November 2023



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**Mr Geoff Sheridan**  
**Principal Administrator**

23 November 2023

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>			
Rates	2a	2,610	2,299
Statutory charges	2b	7	9
User charges	2c	6,550	6,056
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	8,343	6,258
Investment income	2d	21	1
Reimbursements	2e	229	250
Other income	2f	78	71
<b>Total income</b>		<u>17,838</u>	<u>14,944</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	3a	5,502	4,735
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	6,307	4,842
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	5,505	5,198
Finance costs	3d	2,094	2,013
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>19,408</u>	<u>16,788</u>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>		<u>(1,570)</u>	<u>(1,844)</u>
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	332	–
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>		<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>(1,844)</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b>			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	7a	–	(2,213)
<b>Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b>		–	(2,213)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		–	(2,213)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>(4,057)</u>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	4a	2,094	1,138
Trade and other receivables	4b	4,815	3,023
Inventories	4c	353	275
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>7,262</b>	<b>4,436</b>
Non-current assets held for sale	17	–	9,437
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>7,262</b>	<b>13,873</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5	117,074	106,618
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>117,074</b>	<b>106,618</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>124,336</b>	<b>120,491</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6a	9,251	5,839
Borrowings	6b	11,827	11,607
Provisions	6c	183	147
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>21,261</b>	<b>17,593</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	6b	87,586	86,167
Provisions	6c	61	65
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>87,647</b>	<b>86,232</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>108,908</b>	<b>103,825</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>15,428</b>	<b>16,666</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		(8)	1,230
Asset revaluation reserves	7a	15,411	15,411
Other reserves	7b	25	25
<b>Total council equity</b>		<b>15,428</b>	<b>16,666</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>15,428</b>	<b>16,666</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
<b>2023</b>					
Balance as at 1 July		1,230	15,411	25	16,666
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		(1,238)	–	–	(1,238)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	7a	–	–	–	–
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		–	–	–	–
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>(1,238)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1,238)</b>
<b>Balance at the end of period</b>		<b>(8)</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15,428</b>
<b>2022</b>					
Balance as at 1 July		3,885	17,624	25	21,534
Adjustments (correction of prior period errors)	20	(811)	–	–	(811)
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		(1,844)	–	–	(1,844)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	7a	–	(2,213)	–	(2,213)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		–	<b>(2,213)</b>	–	<b>(2,213)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>(1,844)</b>	<b>(2,213)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(4,057)</b>
<b>Balance at the end of period</b>		<b>1,230</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16,666</b>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates receipts		2,723	2,612
Statutory charges		7	8
User charges		7,411	5,563
Grants, subsidies and contributions		9,400	5,906
Investment receipts		21	1
Reimbursements		231	277
Other receipts		263	169
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments to employees		(5,491)	(4,734)
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(6,962)	(3,998)
Finance payments		(2,094)	(1,971)
<b>Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities</b>	9b	<b>5,509</b>	<b>3,833</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		332	–
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(688)	(337)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(507)	(8)
<b>Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(863)</b>	<b>(345)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from loans		7,700	–
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of loans		(7,869)	(92)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(3,521)	(3,549)
<b>Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities</b>		<b>(3,690)</b>	<b>(3,641)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>956</b>	<b>(153)</b>
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		1,138	1,291
<b>Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period</b>	9a	<b>2,094</b>	<b>1,138</b>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### (1) Basis of preparation

##### 1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* dated 23 November 2023

##### 1.2 Historical cost convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

##### 1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

##### 1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

##### 1.5 Going Concern Convention

The Financial report has been prepared on the basis that the Council is a going concern.

Council is in a financially challenging position with a low level of financial reserves, current liabilities exceeding current assets and a history of operating deficits. The debt becomes due in the next twelve months and the Local Government Finance Authority (LGFA)-Councils principle lender-has now imposed reporting covenants as part of its lending conditions.

However, Council retains all the powers of a Municipal Council incorporated under the Local Government Act 1999 including the ability to levy rates and borrow funds.

During 2022/23 the State Government has continued to suspend the Council and employ an Administrator. In February 2023 the Minister appointed a team of three Administrators to take over from the previous Administrator. The Administrators and Chief Executive Officer are addressing the financial challenges of Council through the following actions:

- Maintaining a dialogue with the LGFA, to extend the terms of its current debt facilities which are due to mature within the next 12 months and, in securing additional loan funds to enable it to restructure its short-term liabilities,
- Maintaining a dialogue with a major creditor to continue the current payment arrangements regarding previous outstanding balances,
- Continuing the work on the possible sale of Council's water assets to reduce its debts to a manageable and affordable level and to enable reinvestment in existing community infrastructure,
- Maintaining an open dialogue with the State Government with respect of Council's financial position,
- Continuing to identify internal efficiencies, and
- Instituting improved debt management practices.

Should the internal efficiencies and other actions not be sufficient to make Council's financial position sustainable then consideration will be given, in consultation with the community, to reducing Council services or increasing rates. Given these actions and plans Council is confident that it will be able to pay its commitments as they fall due and remain a going concern.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### 1.6 COVID-19

Covid-19, an infectious disease, was declared a world-wide pandemic by the WHO on 11 March 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic shows considerable signs of easing including the lifting of travel, lockdown and quarantine measures. Governments have also commenced curtailing provision of financial and non-financial assistance.

Lingering impacts have continued to be realised in the pricing and supply of goods and services sourced from overseas.

Covid-19 is not expected to have a significant impact on Council operations. The budget assumptions for 2023/24 continue to assume that no further restrictions are put in place by the government. However, Council has determined there is material uncertainty that casts doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### (2) The local government reporting entity

The District Council of Coober Pedy is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at Hutchinson Street, Coober Pedy. These consolidated financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

##### (3) Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when Council enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

In recent years the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants / local roads / supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference
2020/21	\$835,161	\$862,237	- \$29,851
2021/22	\$1,203,406	\$878,986	+ \$324,420
2022/23	\$1,336,676	\$931,670	+ \$405,006

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated.

The Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 13 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

##### Income from the sale of Environmental Credits

As part of the contract with Energy Generation Pty Ltd, Council receives environmental credits from the generation of renewable energy. These credits are then sold by the contractor on behalf of the Council. Any income from the environmental credits are recognised at the time of sale. For any unsold credits held at year end Council will accrue income based on the market rate as close as possible to year end.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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#### Construction contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues are recognised over time using the input method, with costs incurred compared to total expected costs used as a measure of progress. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

#### (4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 11.

#### (5) Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

---

#### **(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment**

##### **6.1 Initial recognition**

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

##### **6.2 Materiality**

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 5. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

##### **6.3 Subsequent recognition**

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 5.

##### **6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets**

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 5. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

##### **6.5 Impairment**

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

##### **6.6 Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with *AASB 123 Borrowing Costs*. The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### **(7) Payables**

##### **7.1 Goods & Services**

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

##### **7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits**

Amounts other than grants received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

#### **(8) Borrowings**

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value net of transaction costs incurred and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Loans are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates and is recorded as part of "Payables". Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

#### **(9) Employee benefits**

##### **9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences**

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted avg. discount rate 2.83% (2022, 2.93%)

Weighted avg. settlement period 5.8 years (2022, 5.7 years)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

##### **9.2 Superannuation**

The Council made employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Hostplus. The Fund has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 16.

#### **(10) Leases**

The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

##### **10.1 Council as a lessee**

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### i) Right-of-Use-Assets

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the leased asset.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

Plant and equipment	5 to 10 years
Electricity assets	25 years

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies above - Impairment of non-financial assets.

##### ii) Lease Liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the interest rate implicit in the lease.

##### iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

##### (11) GST implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

##### (12) Comparative figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

##### (13) Disclaimer

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.



Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>(a) Rates</b>		
<b>General rates</b>		
General rates	1,716	1,649
Less: mandatory rebates	(13)	(15)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(27)	(26)
<b>Total general rates</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,608</b>
<b>Other rates (including service charges)</b>		
Water supply	494	483
Community wastewater management systems	277	194
Landscape Levy	107	106
<b>Total other rates (including service charges)</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>783</b>
<b>Other charges</b>		
Penalties for late payment	22	24
Legal and other costs recovered	50	35
<b>Total other charges</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs</b>		
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(16)	(151)
<b>Total less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(151)</b>
<b>Total rates</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>2,299</b>
<b>(b) Statutory charges</b>		
Development Act fees	3	4
Animal registration fees and fines	4	5
<b>Total statutory charges</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>(c) User charges</b>		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	21	19
Electricity Sales	3,487	3,507
Water Sales	1,412	1,544
User Charges - Works	317	339
Childcare Fees	118	77
Commercial Bin Pickups	98	75
Swimming Pool Fees	18	17
Landing Fees	149	102
Other	930	376
<b>Total user charges</b>	<b>6,550</b>	<b>6,056</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>(d) Investment income</b>		
Interest on investments		
- Local Government Finance Authority	21	1
<b><u>Total investment income</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>(e) Reimbursements</b>		
Personal Accident Claims	25	22
Other	204	228
<b><u>Total reimbursements</u></b>	<b><u>229</u></b>	<b><u>250</u></b>
<b>(f) Other income</b>		
Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7	4
Sundry	71	67
<b><u>Total other income</u></b>	<b><u>78</u></b>	<b><u>71</u></b>
<b>(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions</b>		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	332	-
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>332</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>
<b>Other grants, subsidies and contributions</b>		
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	1,337	1,203
Child Care	544	506
Breakaways	318	227
Fuel Excise	462	374
Energy SA Subsidy	5,526	3,834
Sundry	156	114
<b><u>Total grants, subsidies and contributions</u></b>	<b><u>8,675</u></b>	<b><u>6,258</u></b>
The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 10.		
<b>(i) Sources of grants</b>		
Commonwealth Government	2,600	2,083
State Government	6,075	4,175
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>8,675</u></b>	<b><u>6,258</u></b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 3. Expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
<b>(a) Employee costs</b>			
Salaries and wages		4,163	3,671
Employee leave expense		733	536
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	16	415	361
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	16	13	19
Workers' compensation insurance		178	151
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		–	(3)
<b><u>Total operating employee costs</u></b>		<b><u>5,502</u></b>	<b><u>4,735</u></b>
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		37	44
<b>(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses</b>			
<b>(i) Prescribed expenses</b>			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		38	38
Bad and doubtful debts		(96)	(232)
Lease expense - variable payments		1,893	1,202
<b><u>Subtotal - prescribed expenses</u></b>		<b><u>1,835</u></b>	<b><u>1,008</u></b>
<b>(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses</b>			
Legal expenses		210	249
Levies paid to Government - NRM levy		108	102
Other		(91)	–
IT Expenses		274	237
Power Distribution Expenses		543	390
Water Production		522	474
Road Maintenance		47	29
Plant Expenditure		970	354
Materials, Contractors, Other		1,889	1,999
<b><u>Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses</u></b>		<b><u>4,472</u></b>	<b><u>3,834</u></b>
<b><u>Total materials, contracts and other expenses</u></b>		<b><u>6,307</u></b>	<b><u>4,842</u></b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment</b>		
<b>(i) Depreciation and amortisation</b>		
Buildings and other structures	143	145
Infrastructure		
- Stormwater drainage	5	5
Water	356	306
Waste Water	35	33
Electricity	258	258
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	99	97
Furniture and fittings	2	1
Transport Assets	165	184
Right of Use Assets - Plant	77	68
Right of Use Assets - Electricity	4,365	4,101
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,505</b>	<b>5,198</b>
<b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment</b>	<b>5,505</b>	<b>5,198</b>
<b>(d) Finance costs</b>		
Interest on loans	225	200
Interest on leases	1,868	1,812
Interest on Security Deposits	1	1
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,013</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 4. Current assets

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets</b>		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	980	967
Deposits at call	1,114	171
<b><u>Total cash and cash equivalent assets</u></b>	<b><u>2,094</u></b>	<b><u>1,138</u></b>
<b>(b) Trade and other receivables</b>		
Rates - general and other	45	209
Accrued revenues	682	802
GST recoupment	37	127
Prepayments	17	135
Debtors - CWMS	18	36
Debtors - Electricity	991	1,161
Debtors - Water	580	911
Debtors - Sundry	3,203	512
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>5,573</u></b>	<b><u>3,893</u></b>
Less: provision for expected credit losses	(758)	(870)
<b><u>Total trade and other receivables</u></b>	<b><u>4,815</u></b>	<b><u>3,023</u></b>
<b>(c) Inventories</b>		
Stores and materials	353	275
<b><u>Total inventories</u></b>	<b><u>353</u></b>	<b><u>275</u></b>

Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical inaccuracies during stores operations.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 5. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

\$ '000	Fair Value Level	as at 30/06/22				Asset movements during the reporting period						as at 30/06/23			
		At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Transition adjustment - AASB 16	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	Adjustments & Transfers	Revaluation Decrements to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
Capital work in progress		-	-	-	-	-	507	104	-	68	-	-	679	-	679
Land	2	539	-	-	539	-	-	-	-	-	-	743	-	-	743
Land	3	405	-	-	405	-	-	-	-	204	-	405	-	-	405
Buildings and other structures	3	7,505	476	(3,294)	4,687	-	-	-	(143)	178	-	7,862	476	(3,616)	4,722
Infrastructure															
Transport Assets	3	8,969	1,728	(3,477)	7,220	-	-	-	(165)	-	-	8,969	1,727	(3,642)	7,054
- Stormwater drainage	3	299	-	(104)	195	-	-	-	(5)	-	-	299	-	(109)	190
Water	3	15,223	(15,223)	-	-	-	-	-	(356)	7,531	-	16,383	-	(9,208)	7,175
Waste Water	3	2,313	(2,313)	-	-	-	-	-	(35)	1,456	-	2,395	-	(973)	1,422
Electricity	3	9,745	-	(4,049)	5,696	-	-	-	(258)	-	-	9,745	-	(4,307)	5,438
Right of Use Assets - Plant		-	392	(244)	148	-	-	388	(77)	-	-	-	780	(321)	459
Right of Use Assets - Electricity		-	100,401	(13,096)	87,305	5,329	-	-	(4,365)	-	-	-	106,852	(18,583)	88,269
Plant, machinery and equipment	2	-	2,539	(2,126)	413	-	-	195	(99)	-	-	1	2,539	(2,225)	315
Furniture and fittings	3	-	476	(466)	10	-	-	-	(2)	-	-	-	671	(468)	203
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>		<b>44,998</b>	<b>88,476</b>	<b>(26,856)</b>	<b>106,618</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>(5,505)</b>	<b>9,437</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,802</b>	<b>113,724</b>	<b>(43,452)</b>	<b>117,074</b>
Comparatives		45,545	99,693	(27,398)	117,840	5,281	8	337	(5,198)	(9,437)	(2,213)	44,998	88,476	(26,856)	106,618

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 5. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

##### Valuation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

###### Valuation of assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

*AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 7(a) for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

###### Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.

Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

In the course of revaluing (name the asset classes), the nature of the inputs applied was reviewed in detail for each asset and where necessary, the asset reassigned to the appropriate fair value hierarchy level. Such transfers take effect as at the date of the revaluation.

###### Other information

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to *AASB 1.D5* to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost. With subsequent addition at cost, this remains as the basis of recognition of non-material asset classes.

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 5. Infrastructure, property, plant &amp; equipment and investment property (continued)

**Highest and best use**

All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Highest and best use - For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land. Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

**Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement**

The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

**Capitalisation Thresholds**

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

	\$
Plant, Furniture & Equipment	2,000
Buildings & Other Structures	10,000
<i>Transport Assets</i>	
Sealed Roads - Surface	10,000
Sealed Roads - Basecourse	10,000
Sealed Roads - Subbase	10,000
Unsealed Roads - Basecourse	10,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	5,000
Carparks	5,000
Culverts	5,000
Water Supply Assets	5,000
Electricity Assets	5,000
Stormwater	5,000
Wastewater Assets	5,000



## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 5. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

##### Estimated Useful Lives

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

Plant, Furniture & Equipment	8 to 20 years
Buildings & Other Structures	20 to 100 years
<i>Transport Assets</i>	
Sealed Roads - Surface	18 to 31 years
Sealed Roads - Basecourse	30 to 80 years
Sealed Roads - Subbase	75 to 200 years
Unsealed Roads - Basecourse	20 to 200 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	25 to 80 years
Carparks	15 to 60 years
Culverts	60 years
Water Supply Assets	10 to 100 years
Electricity Assets	15 to 80 years
Stormwater	60 years
Wastewater Assets	15 to 150 years

##### Land & Land Improvements

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised on the cost basis.

Land assets were revalued at 30 June 2019 by Alan Rushbrook based on valuations provided to the District Council of Coober Pedy by the Valuer General of South Australia. Additions are recognised at cost.

##### Buildings & Other Structures

Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 30 June 2017 by Gaylor Professional Engineering (GPE). All additions made after the date of the valuation are recorded at a valuation at 30 June 2019 by Alan Rushbrook based on valuations provided to the District council of Coober Pedy by the Valuer General of South Australia.

##### Infrastructure

Transportation assets were valued by GPE as at 30 June 2019 at depreciated current replacement cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Stormwater and Electricity Distribution assets were valued by GPE as at 30 June 2021 at depreciated current replacement cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Water Assets and Community wastewater management system infrastructure was valued at depreciated current replacement cost during the reporting period ended 30 June 2022 by Mr David Hope, Principal Consultant, of Skilmar Systems Pty. Ltd.

##### Plant & Equipment

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6. Liabilities

\$ '000	2023 Current	2023 Non Current	2022 Current	2022 Non Current
<b>(a) Trade and other payables</b>				
Goods and services	3,650	–	3,576	–
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	408	–	411	–
Accrued expenses - other	1,498	–	975	–
Deposits, retentions and bonds	192	–	199	–
Income received in advance	3,503	–	678	–
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>	<b>9,251</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>–</b>

**(b) Borrowings**

Loans	7,772	38	7,869	110
Lease liabilities	4,055	87,548	3,738	86,057
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>87,586</b>	<b>11,607</b>	<b>86,167</b>

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

**(c) Provisions**

Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	183	61	147	65
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>65</b>

Amounts included in trade and other payables that are not expected to be settled within 12 months of reporting date

**Movements in provisions**

2023 (current and non-current) \$ '000	Insurance Losses 2023	Future Reinstatement 2023	Leave & Other Provisions 2023
<b>Opening balance</b>	–	–	212
Add: unwinding of present value discounts	–	–	1
(Less): payments	–	–	(77)
Add (less) remeasurement adjustments	–	–	108
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>244</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 7. Reserves

\$ '000	as at 30/06/22	Increments (Decrements)	Transfers	Impairments	as at 30/06/23
	Opening Balance				Closing Balance
<b>(a) Asset revaluation reserve</b>					
Land	(1)	-	-	-	(1)
Buildings and other structures	284	-	-	-	284
Infrastructure					
- Stormwater drainage	81	-	-	-	81
- Water	75	-	-	-	75
- Waste Water	761	-	-	-	761
- Electricity	3,488	-	-	-	3,488
Transport Assets	(2,236)	-	-	-	(2,236)
Revaluations not allocated to class	12,959	-	-	-	12,959
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>12,959</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,959</b>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,411</b>
Comparatives	17,624	(2,213)	-	-	15,411

\$ '000	as at 30/06/22	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	as at 30/06/23
	Opening Balance				Closing Balance
<b>(b) Other reserves</b>					
Breakaway Reserve	25	-	-	-	25
<b>Total other reserves</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>
Comparatives	25	-	-	-	25

**Purposes of reserves****Asset revaluation reserves**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

**Breakaways Reserve**

Funds received by the Breakaways Conservation Park are applied back to the park.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 8. Assets subject to restrictions

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<p>The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially, by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are required to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained.</p>		
<b>Cash and financial assets</b>		
Kanku - Breakaways Funds	513	450
<b>Total cash and financial assets</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Total assets subject to externally imposed restrictions</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>450</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 9. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
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#### (a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Total cash and equivalent assets	4	2,094	1,138
<b>Balances per Statement of Cash Flows</b>		<b>2,094</b>	<b>1,138</b>

#### (b) Reconciliation of change in net assets to cash from operating activities

<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>		(1,238)	(1,844)
<b>Non-cash items in income statements</b>			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		5,505	5,198
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(332)	–
		<b>3,935</b>	<b>3,354</b>
<b>Add (less): changes in net current assets</b>			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(1,680)	(717)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		(112)	(232)
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		(78)	(86)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		3,412	1,520
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		32	(6)
<b>Net cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>		<b>5,509</b>	<b>3,833</b>

#### (c) Financing arrangements

##### Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Corporate credit cards	25	25
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The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 10(a). Functions

Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities.  
Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 10(b).

\$ '000	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT)	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
<b>Functions/Activities</b>										
Governance	38	–	589	427	(551)	(427)	38	–	–	–
Administration	3,204	2,788	2,943	2,990	261	(202)	1,272	1,103	12,519	17,967
Community Services	1,296	1,118	1,774	1,961	(478)	(843)	894	787	79	–
Water Supply	1,855	2,071	2,117	1,563	(262)	508	57	66	8,025	911
Wastewater	283	174	147	130	136	44	–	–	1,440	36
Works	627	506	2,321	1,812	(1,694)	(1,306)	167	173	7,532	7,414
Electricity Supply	10,535	8,287	9,517	7,906	1,018	381	5,915	4,129	94,741	94,163
<b>Total Functions/Activities</b>	<b>17,838</b>	<b>14,944</b>	<b>19,408</b>	<b>16,789</b>	<b>(1,570)</b>	<b>(1,845)</b>	<b>8,343</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>124,336</b>	<b>120,491</b>

Revenues and expenses exclude net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 10(b). Components of functions

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The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

##### **Governance**

Governance, Elected members, Elections, Civic activities.

##### **Administration**

Organisational support services, Accounting/Finance, Payroll, Housing for Council Employees, Human Resources, Information technology, Communication, Rates Administration, Records, Occupancy, Contracts Management, Customers services, other support services, Revenue, LGGC-General Purpose and Separate and Special rates.

##### **Community services**

Provides services to the community such as swimming pool, library, economic developments, tourism services, childcare services and youth services.

##### **Water Supply**

Provides the water supply to the township of Coober Pedy through a reverse osmosis reticulation system.

##### **Wastewater**

Processing sewerage through the sewerage scheme and providing processed water to the town and school ovals.

##### **Works**

Provides services such as road and infrastructure maintenance, dog control, aerodrome maintenance, parks & gardens maintenance and town drainage.

##### **Electricity Supply**

Provide retail billing, distribution and generation of electricity to the township of Coober Pedy.

#### Note 11. Financial instruments

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##### **Recognised financial instruments**

##### **Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits**

###### **Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

###### **Terms & Conditions:**

Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 1.55% and 4.3% (2022: 0.3% and 1.05%).

###### **Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

##### **Receivables - rates and associated charges**

###### **Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

###### **Terms & Conditions:**

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 2% (2022: 2%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

###### **Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

##### Receivables - fees and other charges

###### Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

###### Terms and conditions:

Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

###### Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

##### Receivables - other levels of government

###### Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

###### Terms and conditions:

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

###### Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

##### Liabilities - creditors and accruals

###### Accounting policy:

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

###### Terms and conditions:

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

###### Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

##### Liabilities - retirement home contributions

###### Accounting policy:

To avoid inconvenience when complying with the separate audit requirements imposed by the relevant legislation, amounts are carried at nominal values.

###### Terms and conditions:

Pursuant to Commonwealth legislation certain intending residents are required to contribute amounts on an interest free basis. The amounts are subject to certain deductions as prescribed by the legislation, the balance being repaid on termination of tenancy.

###### Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value for short tenancies; may be non-materially overstated for longer tenancies.



## District Council of Coober Pedy

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

**Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Secured over future revenues, borrowings are in the following forms:

(1) credit foncier repayable by 6 monthly instalments of principle and interest; interest is charged at fixed rates between 5% and 5.05% (2022: 5.00% and 5.05%)

(2) cash advance debenture with interest and principle payable on cessation of the facility; interest is charged at fixed rates between 1.9% and 4.95% (2022: 1.3% and 1.9%) and variable rates between 0% and 0% (2022:1.30% and 2.05%).

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value.

**Liabilities - leases****Accounting policy:**

Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 15.

\$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year and ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
<b>Financial assets and liabilities</b>					
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,094	–	–	2,094	2,094
Receivables	4,837	–	–	4,837	4,837
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>6,931</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>6,931</b>	<b>6,931</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	7,344	–	–	7,344	7,344
Current borrowings	7,883	–	–	7,883	7,772
Non-current borrowings	–	38	–	38	38
Lease liabilities	5,764	23,601	87,839	117,204	91,603
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>20,991</b>	<b>23,639</b>	<b>87,839</b>	<b>132,469</b>	<b>106,757</b>
<b>Total financial assets and liabilities</b>	<b>27,922</b>	<b>23,639</b>	<b>87,839</b>	<b>139,400</b>	<b>113,688</b>
<b>2022</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,138	–	–	1,138	1,138
Receivables	2,829	–	–	2,829	2,829
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>3,967</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	4,453	–	–	4,453	4,453
Current borrowings	7,874	–	–	7,874	7,869
Non-current borrowings	–	115	–	115	110
Lease liabilities	5,568	22,118	88,136	115,822	89,795
		<b>97</b>			

continued on next page ...

## District Council of Coober Pedy

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

Total financial liabilities	17,895	22,233	88,136	128,264	102,227
<u>Total financial assets and liabilities</u>	<u>21,862</u>	<u>22,233</u>	<u>88,136</u>	<u>132,231</u>	<u>106,194</u>

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

\$ '000	2023		2022	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Fixed interest rates	3.19%	7,810	2.00%	7,979
		<u>7,810</u>		<u>7,979</u>

**Net fair value**

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

**Risk exposures**

**Credit Risk** represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 4 & 5 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

**Market Risk** is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

**Liquidity Risk** is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

**Interest Rate Risk** is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

**Expected credit losses (ECL)**

Council uses an allowance matrix to measure expected credit losses for receivables from individual customers, which comprise a large number of small balances. As rates and annual charges are secured over subject land no allowance for such receivables is made. The following table provides information about Council's ECLs from receivables (excluding secured rates and charges, GST and other amounts held in trust). Impairment analysis is performed each reporting date. ECLS are based on credit history adjusted for forward looking estimates and economic conditions.

\$ '000	ECL Rate	Gross carrying amount	Expected Loss
<b>2023</b>			
Current (not past due)	0.4%	3,461	12
Past due 1-30 days	2.2%	269	6
Past due 31-60 days	35.4%	117	41
Past due 61-90 days	64.3%	232	149
Past due 91 days +	73.3%	751	550
		<u>4,830</u>	<u>758</u>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

\$ '000	ECL Rate	Gross carrying amount	Expected Loss
<b>2022</b>			
Current (not past due)	1.0%	957	14
Past due 1-30 days	3.0%	419	13
Past due 31-60 days	40.0%	227	91
Past due 61-90 days	68.0%	57	39
Past due 91 days +	61.0%	1,169	710
		<b>2,829</b>	<b>867</b>

Set out below is the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses:

## Note 12. Capital Expenditure Commitments

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
<b>Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:</b>		
Infrastructure	160	–
Plant and equipment	183	164
	<b>343</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable:</b>		
Not later than one year	343	164
	<b>343</b>	<b>164</b>

## District Council of Coober Pedy

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 13. Financial indicators

\$ '000	Amounts 2023	Indicator 2023	Indicators 2022	Indicators 2021
<i>These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia.</i>				
<b>1. Operating Surplus Ratio</b>				
Operating surplus	(1,570)	(8.8)%	(12.3)%	(11.1)%
Total operating income	17,838			
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.</i>				
<b>2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>				
Net financial liabilities	101,999	572%	668%	694%
Total operating income	17,838			
<i>Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.</i>				
<b>Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio</b>				
Operating surplus	(1,890)	(10.4)%	(10.3)%	(6.1)%
Total operating income	18,172			
<b>Adjustments to Ratios</b>				
<i>In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison between years.</i>				
<i>The Council applies AASB16 Leases, requiring it to recognise a lease liability for a high value long-term contract related to the generation of electricity. As the provision of electricity is subsidised by the Remote Areas Electricity Scheme, the Council believes any future liability will be funded by this subsidy and customer revenue.</i>				
<b>Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>				
Net financial liabilities	10,850	60%	73%	65%
Total operating income	18,172			
<b>3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio</b>				
Asset renewals	688	51%	26%	25%
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure	1,361			

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13. Financial indicators (continued)

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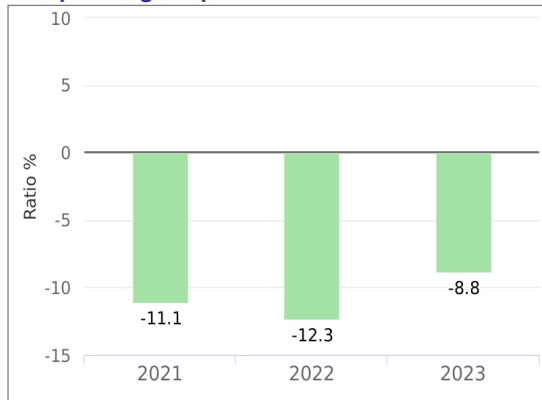
*Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level planned, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.*

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13. Financial indicators (continued)

Financial indicators - graphs

1. Operating Surplus Ratio



**Purpose of operating surplus ratio**

This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue varies from operating expenditure

**Commentary on 2022/23 result**

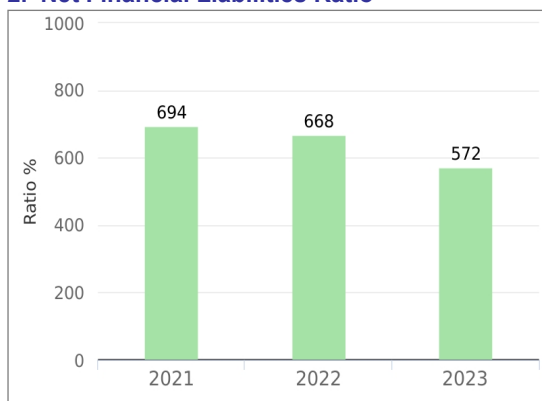
**2022/23 ratio (8.8)%**

Council achieved an improved operating result year-on-year of 6.5%. The overall result was a deficit for the third consecutive year.

Council's operating result is impacted by the accounting treatment of grants received and right of use asset lease costs.

Council is in the process of developing and adopting ratio targets. The industry generally accepted target for operating surplus ratio is between 0 and 10%.

2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



**Purpose of net financial liabilities ratio**

This indicator shows the significance of the net amount owed to others, compared to operating revenue

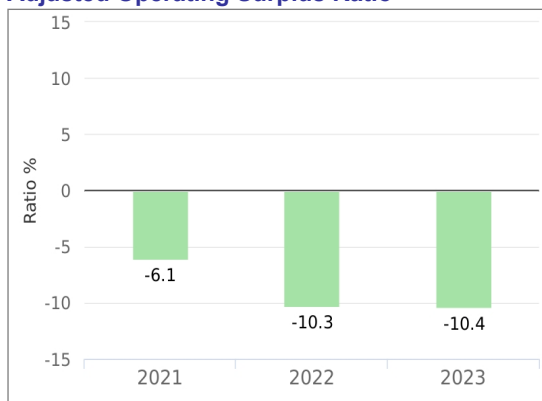
**Commentary on 2022/23 result**

**2022/23 ratio 572%**

Council's net financial liabilities ratio is strongly impacted by the accounting treatment of the Electricity contract long-term lease arrangement and its historical borrowings which have yet to be repaid and that Council is unable to pay. The current Long-term Financial Plan has outlined a plan to repay these funds and reduce this ratio.

Council is in the process of developing and adopting ratio targets. The industry generally accepted target for financial liabilities ratio is between 0 and 100%.

Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio



**Purpose of adjusted operating surplus ratio**

This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure

**Commentary on 2022/23 result**

**2022/23 ratio (10.4)%**

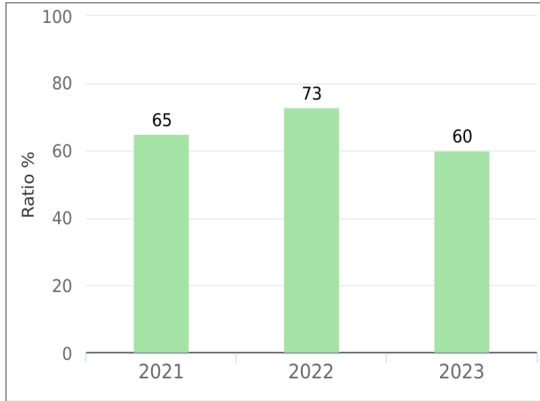
The adjusted operating surplus ratio has adjusted the operating result for untied grants received and Right of Use Asset Lease costs and operating revenue has been reduced by the impact of the accounting treatment of untied grants received.

Council is in the process of developing and adopting ratio targets. The industry generally accepted target for operating surplus ratio is between 0 and 10%.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13. Financial indicators (continued)

**Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio**



**Purpose of adjusted net financial liabilities ratio**

This indicator is to determine the percentage the operating revenue (adjusted for timing differences in the Financial Assistance Grant) varies from operating expenditure

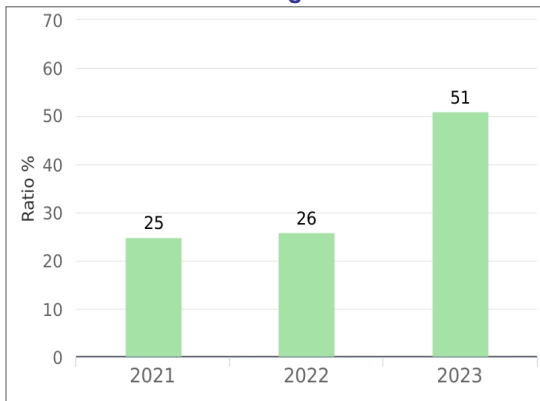
**Commentary on 2022/23 result**

**2022/23 ratio 60%**

The Adjusted net financial Liabilities ratio has removed the impact of the Electricity contract lease liability from total liabilities and the impact of the accounting treatment of untied grants received on the operating revenue.

Council is in the process of developing and adopting ratio targets. The industry generally accepted target for financial liabilities ratio is between 0 and 100%.

**3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio**



**Purpose of asset renewal funding ratio**

This indicator aims to determine if assets are being renewed and replaced in an optimal way

**Commentary on 2022/23 result**

**2022/23 ratio 51%**

Council has developed and adopted Asset Management Plans which provide guidance of when and how much need to be spent to maintain Council's infrastructure. Council strongly utilised grant funding in FY23 to fund new and renewal assets.

Council is in the process of developing and adopting ratio targets. The industry generally accepted target for operating surplus ratio is between 90 and 110%.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 14. Uniform presentation of finances

\$ '000	2023	2022
The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis.		
All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.		
The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.		
<u>Income</u>		
Rates	2,610	2,299
Statutory charges	7	9
User charges	6,550	6,056
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	8,343	6,258
Investment income	21	1
Reimbursements	229	250
Other income	78	71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>17,838</b>	<b>14,944</b>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Employee costs	5,502	4,735
Materials, contracts and other expenses	6,307	4,842
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,505	5,198
Finance costs	2,094	2,013
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,408</b>	<b>16,788</b>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(1,570)</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>
<b>Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(1,570)</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>
<b>Net outlays on existing assets</b>		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(688)	(337)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,505	5,198
	<b>4,817</b>	<b>4,861</b>
<b>Net outlays on new and upgraded assets</b>		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(507)	(8)
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	332	-
	<b>(175)</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>3,009</b>



## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 15. Leases

## (i) Council as a lessee

## Terms and conditions of leases

Council is in a lease arrangement with regard to the electricity generation and plant & equipment assets

Set out below are the carrying amounts (written down value) of right of use assets recognised within Infrastructure Property, Plant & Equipment

Set out below are the carrying amounts of right-of-use assets recognised within Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment and the movements during the period:

## (a) Right of use assets

\$ '000	Plant	Electricity	Total
<b>2023</b>			
Opening balance	148	87,305	87,453
Additions to right-of-use assets	388	–	388
Net Revaluation	–	5,329	5,329
Depreciation charge	(77)	(4,365)	(4,442)
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>88,269</b>	<b>88,728</b>
<b>2022</b>			
Opening balance	216	86,125	86,341
Net Revaluation	–	5,281	5,281
Depreciation charge	(68)	(4,101)	(4,169)
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>87,305</b>	<b>87,453</b>

## (b) Lease liabilities

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (included under interest-bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

\$ '000	2023	2022
Balance at 1 July	89,795	88,063
Additions	388	–
Accretion of interest	1,868	1,812
Payments	(5,777)	(5,361)
Remeasurement adjustment	5,329	5,281
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>91,603</b>	<b>89,795</b>
<b>Classified as:</b>		
Current	4,055	3,738
Non-current	87,548	86,057

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is included in Note 14.

The Group had total cash outflows for leases of \$5,629,723.

The following are the amounts recognised in profit or loss:

Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	4,442	4,169
Interest expense on lease liabilities	1,868	1,812

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 15. Leases (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
Variable lease payments	1,893	1,202
<b>Total amount recognised in profit or loss</b>	<b>8,203</b>	<b>7,183</b>

## (ii) Council as a lessor

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as rent and hire of non-investment property in Note 2.

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:</b>		
Not later than one year	11,661	6,000
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	6,004	12,000
	<b>17,665</b>	<b>18,000</b>

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 16. Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Hostplus (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Statewide Super). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

##### **Accumulation only members**

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (10.50% in 2022/23; 10.00% in 2021/22). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

##### **Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) members**

Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2021/22) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.34(a), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2021. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

##### **Contributions to other superannuation schemes**

Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 17. Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

##### Details of assets and disposal groups

##### Sale of Water and CWMS Assets

Council's preference is to divest its water business. At the time of writing, Council is engaged with two parties who responded to a formal Request For Tender that closed on 30 August 2023. Further clarification questions have been posed to the respondents and are in the process of being answered. It is unclear yet whether an outcome will be delivered as a result.

The assets relating to these businesses was previously recognised as assets held for sale. Due to the uncertainty that exists as to the future of these assets Council has once again recognised these assets as non-current depreciable assets.

Financial information relating to the discontinued operation is shown below:

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>(ii). Carrying amounts of assets and liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	–	9,437
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>9,437</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>9,437</b>

This disposal group was previously classified as part of water supply and waste water in Note 5.

As the consideration expected to be received exceeds the carrying amount, these assets have been recognised at the carrying amount.

#### Note 18. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

##### 1. Land under roads

As reported in the Financial Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

##### 2. Potential insurance losses

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to a deductible "insurance excess", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 18. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

##### 3. Legal expenses

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the Development Act 1993 (as amended). Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council had no notice of appeals against planning decisions made prior to reporting date. All known costs have been recognised, but the amount of further costs cannot be known until the appeals are determined.

#### Note 19. Related party transactions

##### Key management personnel

###### Transactions with key management personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 10 (2022:10) persons were paid the following total compensation:

\$ '000	2023	2022
<b>The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:</b>		
Short-term employee benefits	1,288	1,134
Termination benefits	51	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>1,190</b>

###### Receipts from key management personnel comprise:

Other than amounts paid as ratepayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.), Council received the following amounts in total:

Rentals for Council property	24	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>

###### Parties related to key management personnel

Four close family members of key management personnel are employed by Council in accordance with the terms of the Award, and as recorded in the public Register of Salaries maintained in accordance with section 105 of the Local Government Act 1999.

#### Note 20. Equity - retained earnings and revaluation reserves adjustments

##### Correction of errors relating to a previous reporting period

###### Nature of prior-period error

In the course of the year Council found that there was an outstanding obligation to lodge its FBT returns for the FBT years of 2008 to 2016 and 2018. Council engaged a specialist FBT Accounting firm to review prior years general ledger transactions and records and to complete the returns outstanding with the ATO. The estimate of the outstanding FBT liability is \$372,923 and the estimated general Interest charge by the ATO is \$438,283. The total estimated amount payable is \$811,206. These numbers are still subject to review and acceptance by the ATO.

As this adjustment represents a material change to prior periods the following statements have been prepared for comparative purposes.

## District Council of Coober Pedy

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 20. Equity - retained earnings and revaluation reserves adjustments (continued)

The errors identified above have been corrected by restating the balances at the beginning of the earliest period presented (1 July 2021) and taking the adjustment through to accumulated surplus at that date.

Comparatives have been changed to reflect the correction of errors. The impact on each line item is shown in the tables below.

## Changes to the opening Statement of Financial Position at 1 July 2021

## Statement of Financial Position

\$ '000	Original Balance 1 July, 2021	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 1 July, 2021
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,291	–	1,291
Trade & Other Receivables	2,074	–	2,074
Inventories	189	–	189
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,554</b>
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	117,840	–	117,840
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>117,840</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>117,840</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>121,394</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>121,394</b>
Trade & other payables	3,520	811	4,331
Borrowings	11,348	–	11,348
Provisions	45	–	45
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>14,913</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>14,913</b>
Borrowings	84,786	–	84,786
Provisions	160	–	160
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>84,946</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>84,946</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>99,859</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>100,670</b>
Accumulated Surplus	3,886	(811)	3,075
Asset Revaluation Reserves	17,624	–	17,624
Other Reserves	25	–	25
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>21,535</b>	<b>(811)</b>	<b>20,724</b>

## Adjustments to the comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Statement of Financial Position

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2022	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2022
Cash & cash equivalents	1,138	–	1,138
Trade & other receivables	3,023	–	3,023
Inventories	275	–	275
Non-current Assets held for Sale	9,437	–	9,437
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>13,873</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>13,873</b>
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	106,618	–	106,618
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>106,618</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>106,618</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>120,491</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>120,491</b>
Trade & other payables	5,028	811	5,839
Borrowings	11,607	–	11,607

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 20. Equity - retained earnings and revaluation reserves adjustments (continued)

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2022	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2022
Provisions	147	–	147
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>16,782</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,782</b>
Borrowings	86,167	–	86,167
Provisions	65	–	65
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>86,232</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>86,232</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>103,014</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>103,825</b>
Accumulated Surplus	2,041	(811)	1,230
Asset Revaluation Reserve	15,411	–	15,411
Breakaways Reserve	25	–	25
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>17,477</b>	<b>(811)</b>	<b>16,666</b>

Statement of Comprehensive Income

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2022	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2022
Rates	2,299	–	2,299
Statutory Charges	9	–	9
User Charges	6,056	–	6,056
Grants, subsidies and contributions	6,258	–	6,258
Investment income	1	–	1
Reimbursements	250	–	250
Other income	71	–	71
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>14,944</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>14,944</b>
Employee Costs	4,735	–	4,735
Materials, contracts & other expenses	4,842	–	4,842
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	5,198	–	5,198
Finance costs	2,013	–	2,013
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>16,788</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,788</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>

Statement of Comprehensive Income

\$ '000	Original Balance 30 June, 2022	Impact Increase/ (decrease)	Restated Balance 30 June, 2022
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	(2,213)	–	(2,213)
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>(2,213)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(2,213)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(4,057)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(4,057)</b>

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the District Council of Coober Pedy, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the District Council of Coober Pedy as of 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Material Uncertainty related to Going Concern**

We draw attention to Note 1.5, "Going Concern Convention" in the financial report. The conditions disclosed in Note 1.5 indicate a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, whether it will realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business, and at the amounts stated in the financial report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, which gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Francis', is positioned above the printed name.

DAVID FRANCIS  
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023

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## **INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY**

### **Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the compliance of the District Council of Coober Pedy (the Council) with the requirements of *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 are in accordance with legislative provisions.

In our opinion, the Council has not complied, in all material respects, with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, established by the Council in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with legislative provisions for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

### **Qualification**

The council has significant deficiencies in their internal controls to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 were accordance with legislative provisions. These deficiencies were due to an absence of policies, procedures and robust internal controls.

### **Limitation on Use**

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

### **Limitations of Controls**

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on internal controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

## Independence

In conducting our engagement, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

## The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities are in accordance with legislative provisions.

## Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagement on Controls*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the *Council* has complied with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of internal controls in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, evaluating management's assessment of these internal controls, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and implementation of controls on a sample basis on the assessed risks.

## BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP



DAVID FRANCIS  
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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### Certification of Auditor Independence

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of District Council of Coober Pedy for the year ended 30 June 2023, the Council's Auditor, David Francis of Bentley's SA Audit Partnership, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



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Mr Mark Austin  
Chief Executive Officer



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Mr Mark Booth  
Presiding Member, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: 23 November 2023

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**Certification of Auditor Independence**

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of District Council of Coober Pedy for the year ended 30 June 2023, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (*including Independence Standards*), Part 4A, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

**Bentleys SA Audit Partnership**



David Francis  
Partner

**Dated at Adelaide this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2023**

## Appendix 2:

# 2022-23 Freedom of Information Statement





**District Council of Coober Pedy**

# **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT**

## **District Council of Coober Pedy**

### **2022-2023**

This Freedom of Information Statement is published by District Council of Coober Pedy (Council) in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (FOI Act)

Subject to certain restrictions, the FOI Act gives members of the public a legally enforceable right to access information held by South Australian (Local) Government agencies such as Councils. The purpose of this statement is to assist members of the public to identify the functions and decision making processes of Council, detail the type of information held by Council and advise how it can be accessed by the public.

An updated Information Statement will be published on the Council's website each financial year. This statement was released on 29 November 2023.

# 1 Structure and Functions of Council

## 1.1 Full Council and provisions for meeting procedures

In January 2019, the Council - made up of nine elected members, including the mayor - was suspended by the government, and an Administrator appointed in its place.

The Administrator has all the powers and responsibilities previously held by the Council. South Australian local councils held elections in November 2022. In October 2022, it was decided that Coober Pedy was staying under administration with the hope to return to an elected Council before the next elections. In February 2023, Colin Davies was appointed as interim Administrator to take over from Tim Jackson. On 9 March 2023, 3 Administrators were appointed. Mr Geoff Sheridan was appointed as principal Administrator full time, along with 2 supporting Administrators, Ms Erika Vickery and Mr John Moyle.

The three Administrators represent the State Government in Coober Pedy.

“Council” is the body corporate consisting of elected members as constituted under the Local Government Act 1999. Council is established to provide for the government and management of its area at the local level and, in particular:

- a) to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-makers in the interest of its community; and
- b) to provide and co-ordinate various public services and facilities and to develop its community and resource in a socially just and ecologically sustainable manner; and
- c) to encourage and develop initiatives within its community for improving the quality of life of the community; and
- d) to represent the interests of its community to the wider community; and
- e) to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, functions and duties of local government under the Local Government Act and other acts in relation to the area for which it is constituted. [s.6, Local Government Act]

An Administrator or Administrators appointed under s.273 of the Local Government Act will, until the council ceases to be a defaulting council, administer the affairs of the defaulting council in the name of and on behalf of the council (and for that purpose will have all the powers, functions and duties of the council).

Ordinary meetings of the Council are held at the main Council Office, Lot 773 Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy and commence at 3pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public, with the exception of any matters subject to an order of confidentiality. [s.90 of the Local Government Act]. Notices of all meetings of Council and its Committees are available on the website and from all Council Offices.

One of the main opportunities for the community to gain information about the business of Council is its agendas and associated reports prepared for Council and Committee meetings. Agendas, including minutes of the previous meetings and supporting documentation, are placed on public display no less than three days prior to meetings. They are available on Council’s website at [www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au](http://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au) and at each office of the Council that is open to the public for the general administration of Council business.

Notice of a meeting and the agenda are kept on public display and continue to be published on the website until the completion of the relevant meeting.



## **1.2 Council Committees and subsidiaries**

Schedule 1 of this statement lists the various committees of Council and identifies under which section of the Local Government Act or Development Act they have been formed. A Council may also establish other working groups to assist in the performance of its functions.

Committees streamline Council business and assist in the performance of its functions. The membership of Committees and their Terms of Reference are determined by the Council.

Committees meet at intervals determined in their Terms of Reference (available on Council's website and at Council Offices) and make recommendations to Council. Meetings of Committees are open to the public with the exception of any matters subject to an order of confidentiality [s.90, Local Government Act], and are publicly notified in the same way as Council meetings. (See 1.1 above)

Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations prescribe the way meetings of a Council and its Committees are to be conducted.

## **1.3 External Committees/Boards/Associations**

Council participates in a number of external Committees, Boards and Associations, comprising Administrators, staff and the public and these are listed in Schedule 1. The minutes of meetings of external Committees, Boards and Associations are included in the agenda for the meetings of the full Council (or appropriate Committee).

## **1.4 Delegations**

The Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority from Council to make decisions on specified administrative and policy matters. The Chief Executive Officer may sub-delegate to an employee or a Committee. Council's Delegations Register reflects the delegated authority from the Council to the CEO (and subsequently any further sub-delegations). The Delegations Register is reviewed annually by Council and is available to be viewed by the public at the Council office, Lot 773 Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy during ordinary working hours.

## **1.5 Functions of Council**

The functions of Council, set out in s 7 of the Local Government Act, include:

- a) to plan at the local and regional level for the development and future requirements of its area;
- b) to provide services and facilities that benefit its area, its ratepayers and residents, and visitors to its area;
- c) to provide for the welfare, well-being and interests of individuals and groups within its community;
- d) to take measures to protect its area from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effects of such hazards;
- e) to manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner, and to improve amenity;
- f) to provide infrastructure for its community and for development within its area;
- g) to promote its area and to provide an attractive climate and locations for the development of business, commerce, industry and tourism;
- h) to establish or support organisations or programs that benefit people in its area or local government generally;

- i) to manage and, if appropriate, develop, public areas vested in, or occupied by, the Council;
- j) to manage, improve and develop resources available to the Council;
- k) to undertake other functions and activities conferred by or under the Act. [s.6, Local Government Act]

Section 41 of the Local Government Act empowers a Council to establish committees

- To assist the Council in the performance of its functions
- To enquire into and report to the Council on matters within the ambit of the Council's responsibilities
- To provide advice to the Council
- To exercise, perform or discharge delegated powers, functions or duties

### 1.6 Services for the Community

Council is required by legislation to:

- Determine policies to be applied by the Council
- Develop and adopt Strategic Management Plans
- Prepare and adopt annual business plans and budgets
- Establish an Audit Committee
- Develop appropriate policies, practices and processes of internal control
- Set performance objectives
- Establish policies and processes for dealing with complaints, requests for service, and internal review of Council decisions
- Determine the type, range and scope of projects to be undertaken by the Council
- Deliver planning and development, dog and cat management, fire prevention and certain public health services
- Provide the necessary administrative services to support Council's functions

Other services and activities are provided through the decision making processes of Council in response to local needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within the community to ensure that Council resources are used equitably.

Other core services provided by Council include:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Electricity Distribution / Retail                                 | Environmental Health                  |
| Water Production / Distribution / Retail                          | Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Schemes |
| Community Wastewater  | Flood Prevention                      |
| Public Cemetery   | Food Inspections                      |
| Civic Affairs – Citizenship Ceremonies                            | Street Closures                       |
| Public Swimming Pools (subsidised by the Department of Education) | Street Lighting                       |
| Recreational / Sporting Facilities / Reserves                     | Garbage Collection                    |
| Dry Zones   | Street Sweeping                       |
| Public Seating  | Heritage Preservation                 |
| Public Toilets  | Stormwater Drainage                   |
| Road / Footpath / Kerbing   | Litter Bins                           |
| School Crossings  | Parking Bays                          |
| Customer Service Information                                      | Visitor Information Center            |
| Rate Collection   | Playground Equipment                  |

## 2 Public Participation

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to express their views on particular issues before Council. These include:

**Deputations to Council** – With the written permission of the Presiding Member of the Committee or the Administrator, a member of the public can address a Committee or the Council personally or on behalf of a group of residents for up to 3 minutes on any item that is relevant to that Committee or the Council, depending on the number of deputations scheduled for a particular meeting.

**Petitions** – Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

### **Deputations/Presentations**

Deputations or presentations provide an opportunity for an organisation, Council officer(s) or member of the public to provide a Committee or the Council with information relevant to a matter currently under consideration. The duration is up to 3 minutes and generally is limited to one presentation per meeting.

**Council Members / Administrators** – Members of the public can contact the Administrators of Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council. Contact details for the Principal Administrator are available on Council's website.

**Written Requests** – Members of the public can write to Council on any Council policy, activity or service.

**Council's Website** – Members of the public can provide feedback via the Comment, Complaint and Compliment form available on Council's website at <https://www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au/latest-news-events/noticeboard>

### **Community Consultation**

The District Council of Coober Pedy is committed to open, honest, accountable and responsible decision making. Council's Public Consultation Policy facilitates effective communication between Council and the community, encouraging community involvement and partnerships in planning and decision making. The policy sets out the steps Council will take in relation to public consultation and ensures that the most cost effective methods of informing and involving the community, which are appropriate for specific circumstances and consultation topics, are used. The policy is available via Council's website.

## 3 Access to Council Documents

### 3.1 Documents held by Council

Most information and documentation held by Council is available for public viewing and is readily available without recourse to the Freedom of Information Act and we invite you to discuss your information needs with us.

### 3.2 Policy documents available for inspection

At the time of publishing this statement the following documents can be accessed from Council's website and are available for public inspection at Office of Council during ordinary business hours. Any new policy adopted by Council after publication of this statement will be similarly available.

Asset Management Policy	Audit Committee Policy
Temporary Road Closures for Events on Council Roads	Caretaker Guidelines
Council Member Access to Information Policy	Caretaker Policy
Council Induction Policy	Complaints Handling Procedure under Council Members' Code of Conduct
Council Member Training and Development Policy	Credit Card Policy
Customer Electrical Maintenance Policy	Customer Electrical Maintenance Procedure
Disposal of Land and Assets Policy	Distributed Generation Policy
Distributed Generation Requirements	Debt Recovery Policy 2023
Elected Member Allowance & Support Policy	Code of Conduct for Council Members
Election Signs	Employees Code of Conduct
Employee Code of Conduct - Dealing with Complaints Procedure	Financial Hardship Policy - Rates 2021
Flag Flying Policy	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
Gifts & Benefits Policy	Grievance & Disciplinary Policy
Hardship Policy for Residential Customer	Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy & Procedure
Making of Orders Policy	Meetings Code of Practice
Policy for Mayor/Chairperson Seeking Legal Advice	Privacy Policy
Procurement Policy	Prudential Management Policy
Public Consultation Policy	Public Interest Disclosure Policy
Rebate of Council Rates Policy	Records Management Policy
Request for Services Policy	Risk Management Policy & Framework
Social Media Policy	Statutory Code of Practice Access to Council meetings
Signage Policy	Street Naming Policy
Use of Social Media by Councillors Guidelines	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy
Water Leakage Allowance Policy	Water Pricing Policy
Workplace Relations Policy	Writing Off Bad Debts Policy

### 3.3 Other Council Documents

Other documents which can be accessed on Council's website include:

Animal Management Plan	Annual Business Plan 2023/24
Annual Reports since 2002/03	Asset Management Long Term Program
Council Bylaws	Council & Committee Agendas
Council & Committee Minutes	Development Plan
Delegations Register	Fees and Charges Schedule 2023/24
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan	Long Term Financial Plan
Strategic Management Plan	Development Application Register

Terms of Reference, Audit Committee	By laws Register
Assessment Book	Delegations Register
Register of Retained Items of Confidential Orders	Register of Released Confidential Documents for Council and Committee Meetings
Register of Employees' Salaries & Wages and Benefits	Supplementary Development Plans previously on exhibition
Employee Gift and Benefit Register	Council Member / Administrator Gifts and Benefits Register
Financial Statements	Community Land Register
Credit Cards Statements	

### 3.4 Other Information Requests

Requests for other information not publicly available will be considered in accordance with the FOI Act. Under this legislation, applicants seeking access to documents held by Council need to provide sufficient information to enable the correct documents to be identified and must complete the required application form and lodge it at the Council offices.

Applications must be in writing and must specify that it is made under Section 13 of the FOI Act.

If the documents relate to the applicant's personal affairs, proof of identity may be requested. Requests will be dealt with as soon as practicable (and in any case, within 30 days) after receipt. If documents are being sought on behalf of another person relating to their personal affairs, Council may ask for a consent form signed by that person.

Forms of access may include inspection or copies (subject to copyright laws) of documents, hearing and/or viewing of audio and/or video tapes, transcripts of recorded documents, transcripts of words recorded in shorthand or encoded form, or the reproduction of documents from digitised information.

Council, on receiving a FOI application, may assist the applicant to direct the application to another agency or transfer the application to another agency if appropriate.

If Council refuses access to a document, The District Council of Coober Pedy must issue a certificate stating why the document is a restricted document.

In rare cases, retrieving the requested information involves considerable staff time. It is important to specify what is required as clearly as possible so staff can assist quickly and efficiently. If extraordinary staff time is required to comply with an information request, charges may apply.

All general enquiries on FOI Act issues should be directed to Freedom of Information Officer.

## 4 Freedom of Information Application Fees and Processing Charges

Approved application fees are set in the FOI (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2003. A cheque/money order/cash for the appropriate amount must be forwarded to Council with the Freedom of Information Application. Processing charges may also apply for dealing with the application. These are set in the Freedom of Information Regulations and may include some free time when the request relates to the personal affairs of the applicant.

<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Fees and Charges as at 1 July 2023</b>
On application for access to an agency's documents (section 13(c))	\$40.75
For dealing with an application for access to an agency's documents and in respect of the giving of access to the document (section 19(1)(b) and (c))— (a) In the case of a document that contains information concerning the personal affairs of the applicant— (i) for up to the first 2 hours spent by the agency in dealing with the application and giving access no charge (ii) for each subsequent 15 minutes so spent by the agency (b) in any other case—for each 15 minutes so spent by the agency S	No charge \$15.40 each additional 15 minutes \$15.40 per 15 minutes
Where access is to be given in the form of a photocopy of the document (per page)	25 cents
Where access is to be given in the form of a written transcript of words recorded or contained in the document (per page)	\$9.10
Where access is to be given in the form of a copy of a photograph, x-ray, video tape, computer tape or computer disk the actual cost incurred by the agency in producing the copy	The actual cost incurred by the agency in producing the copy
Postage or delivery charges	The actual cost incurred by the agency
An application for review by an agency of a determination made by the agency under Part 3 of the Act	\$40.75

Fees will be waived for disadvantaged persons, as set in the Freedom of Information Regulations. i.e. No fee is required for current concession holders or if payment of the fee would cause financial hardship. At all times Council retains a discretion to waive, reduce or remit a fee for any reason it thinks fit.

If, in the Council's opinion, the cost of dealing with an application is likely to exceed the application fee, an advance deposit may be requested. The request will be accompanied by a notice that sets out the basis on which the amount of the deposit has been calculated. The Freedom of Information Officer will endeavour to work with the applicant to define the scope of the request and the costs involved.

Freedom of Information requests are to be lodged via <https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/59067e69ad9c5a0cdc2bd788>

## **5 Amendment to Council Records**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 1991, persons may request a correction to any information about themselves that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out of date. To gain access to these Council records, a person must complete and lodge with Council an application form as indicated above outlining the records that he/she wishes to inspect.

If it is found that these require amendment, details of the necessary changes are to be lodged with Council's Freedom of Information Officer. There are no fees or charges for the

lodgment, or the first two hours of processing of this type of application and where there is a significant correction of personal records and the mistakes were not the applicant's, any fees and charges paid for the original application will be fully refunded.

Mark Austin

Acting Chief Executive Officer

29 November 2023

## Schedule 1 Committees of Council

### Council Committees and subsidiaries

- **Audit and Risk** – The Committee provides an essential independent overview of the Council and its management to enhance governance and consider what is in the community's best interests.

It provides independent assurance and advice to the council on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management and governance matters.

Allowances for external members of the Audit Committee are set by Council, and were as follows for the 2023-23 financial year:

Chairperson \$440 (GST exclusive) per meeting

Independent Members \$440 (GST exclusive) per meeting

Administrators NIL

- **CEO Performance Review** - to consider matters relating to the Chief Executive Officer's recruitment, remuneration, employment and performance.

### External Committees/Boards/Associations

Nil